

Jer. The Armig.
Modern QUACK;
OR
Medicinal Impostor.

In Three PARTS.

WITH A
SUPPLEMENT, displaying the present
Set of Pretenders to Clap-curing, giving
Judgment upon Urine, &c. wherein their
Frauds and Abuses are laid open; Rules
also to know, and Cautions against them.

And, for the farther Security of the Sick of
any sort, a Catalogue is annexed of all the
Members of the Royal College of Physi-
cians, residing in Town, with the Places
of their several Abodes or Habitations.

The SECOND EDITION.

To which, as related to the same Subject, are added by
another Hand, Some REMARKS upon Dr. Hancock's
TREATISE, which he entitles

*Febrifugum Magnum: Or Cold Water the
best Cure for Fevers.*

In a LETTER to the AUTHOR.

L O N D O N:

Printed for THOMAS WARNER, at the Black-Boy in
Pater-Noster-Row. 1724.

THE
 MODERN
 OR
 MEDICAL IMPROVER
 In Three Parts.

WITH A
 SUPPLEMENT, displaying the present
 Set of Precedents to Clap-curing, giving
 Judgment upon the same, wherein their
 Faults and Errors are open; Rules
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 Febrifugus Magma: Or Cold Water for
 best Cure for Fevers.

IN A LETTER TO THE AUTHOR

LONDON:
 Printed for Thomas WALKER, at the Black-Swan in
 Strand, 1744.



To the WORSHIPFUL

Dr. *John Bateman*,

President of the Royal College of Physicians in *London*.

S I R,

A S I cannot think my self singular in remarking the growing Boldness of *Quacks* and *Empirics*, nor of the daily Mischief thereby accruing to many of his Majesty's good Subjects, so I dare say, I have at least the tacit Consent and Approbation of every Member of our renowned College

A 2

to

The DEDICATION.

to my honest Endeavours for reforming their Abuses.

The Design then, most learned President, of the following Pages, is in all well-meaning [and a plainness of Stile suited to their Understandings] to set before Mens Eyes, the great Danger they incur by meddling with any Medicines [let their Titles be never so specious] sold in divers Parts of this City at Tradesmens Shops, and which are indeed no other than so many *Baits* laid to defraud them of their Money, if not to cheat them of their Lives, which [as I have made appear] too many of them have done; and farther, that no great or powerful Medicine can be prepar'd, but that if taken in this way of publick *Advertisement* in *News-Papers*, or distributed by *Bills*, either given into their Hands, or pasted upon Posts, altho' the nicest
Directions

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Directions that can be, are deliver'd therewith, yet will the same be liable to do more Harm than Good.

These, Sir, with some few of the Knavish Practices of our Modern *Cheats* and Physical *Impostors*, are drawn up in as short a Compass as I could, that our common People [being apprised of the Danger] might the more easily avoid the Snare.

The common People did I say? I might, I think, have included all Orders and Degrees of Men, since we find oftentimes those of great Fortunes, and as great a Share of Understanding in other Matters, have been this way impos'd on as much as others.

Such, indeed, is the Unconcernedness of most Men about *Physical* and *Anatomical* Subjects, and so wild their Ideas of the Parts of their own Bodies, and the manner of

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any Medicine working its Effects therein, that even the greatest Mistakes, both in the *Theory* as well as *Practice*, are swallowed by them without Hesitation.

If it were not so, with what Face could we believe some of our villainous Pretenders of this sort, upon sight of their Water, should confidently tell them [as I have had it from the Persons Mouths that were so beguil'd] their *Livers* being displaced were fallen upon their *Lungs*, occasioning thereby great straitness of their Breath, or that these latter were entirely wasted; that their *Spleen* and their *Heart* were grown together, giving rise to Melancholy, Wind, and Vapours, and stopping the Course of their Blood; that their *Kidneys* were fallen quite down into their *Bladders*, and stop'd their Urine, with twenty the like Absurdities; all
which,

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which, however, by their Skill and Remedies, they undertake to help and rectify. In few Words, have we not, by common Conversation with them, great Reason to think that the Generality have little other Notion of their *Stomach* and *Bowels*, than the one meerly as a *Basin* to receive, the other as a *Pipe* or *Pipes* only to convey off what is left of the Contents, the rest being distributed they know not where nor how; and thus if any *Remora* or *Stop* happens to the first, a lusty *Vomit* will Pump all up again, or a strong *Horse-drench* forcing down the *Plug*, clear the offending Matter lying in the way, and together carry all before it: Thus both the *Lungs* and *Stomach*, which they think [many of them] to have the same common *Funnel* or *Passage*, are sufficiently provided for; or if the *Offence* be got farther into the *Blood*,

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the next work is to roast the Patient with some burning *Cordial* or *Spirits*, or by some *Tberiacal* Composition, stifling him in his Bed, to force an intempestive Sweat : Now he that can answer these three supposed Indications, is dubb'd [at least in his own *Conceit*] a famous Doctor ; and who can be long to seek for somewhat that will *Vomit*, *Purge*, or *Sweat*, that can but purchase either *Culpeper* or *Salmon*, I need not, I am sure, acquaint you ; nor yet how fatally all three have been Experimented by some impudent Intruders on the *Medicinal* Province.

The Case now standing thus, and a long Experience having made it manifest, that a simple Detection of the Fraud, without Coercion upon the Delinquent, is insufficient to rectify the Disorder, and secure the People from being thus, as it were,
sacrificed

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sacrificed by unskilful Pretenders to *Physick*. Unto whom is it we can apply for Redress, unless to you the learned *President* of that Faculty, who together with the *Censors*, have full Power invested in you by the *Legislature*, conferr'd by Kings and Queens, his Majesty's Predecessors, and confirm'd by the declar'd Opinions of the best and greatest Judges and chief Justices of their several Reigns.

This Power, I say, you have to punish all such dangerous Intermeddlers in Medicine with Fines and Imprisonment ; and the same being executed in some latter Reigns, many Scores of these *Empirical* People were thereby suppress'd, to the great Advantage of the Publick, on whom many of them had most egregiously imposed : And surely, we of this present, have as much Reason as our
Ancestors

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Ancestors to complain of their *Male-Practice* : So *Epidemical* is this Plague become, and so notoriously Impudent the *Venefici*, that not content to Poison us in private, they have now their *Magazines* or Store-houses in sundry Parts of the Town, where their Trumpery is deliver'd out, and when a Miscarriag [as often will] falls out ; we are so far from having Redress, as to find it very difficult sometimes to know the Authors of our Ruin ; yet these I must, notwithstanding, account the modester Sort of our Modern Manslayers, whilst others more bare-faced, bid open Defiance to the Laws, some of them assuming the Title of *Graduates* of our own *Universities* ; nay, one of them, not long since, in a publick *Bill*, had Assurance to stile himself a regular Physician, as would appear by his *Diploma* from the College ;

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lege ; when upon tracing his Original, I was told he had been a few Years before a Scrivener's Apprentice, and running away from his Master, the next News that was heard of him in the Family was this of his setting up for a Doctor ; but understanding there was an Order for his being Prosecuted by the College, we have heard no more of this College *Diploma*, tho' still with his wonted Impudence and Effrontery he goes on to Practice, to the undoing of many unhappy Persons falling into the Snare he is as continually laying for them. There are two others of the same metall'd Fronts, have, I am inform'd, by some Means or other [I must leave your honourable Board to enquire what] procur'd a University Seal, I think from *Scotland*, with which, the better to cloak their Knavery, they
Vaunt

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Vaunt and Strut, as if the M. D. would screen them from your Displeasure, and justify their Pretensions, which are so trivially founded, that whenever it shall please you to send forth your Citation, or convene them, you will find them entirely ignorant of the *Fundamenta Medicinæ*; and tho' one of them in publick *Bills* undertakes to cure all, yet is he unable truly to define any one Distemper. The rest of these stroling Vagrants being ask'd by what Authority they thus take upon them to meddle in *Physick*, will immediately produce their Patents, their Graces the A—— B——'s, at least some other their L——'s *Licences* for so doing.

Now as it would be too harsh an Expression to let fall, or even to surmise, that these noble Personages should grant *Licences* to
destroy

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destroy Mankind, yet is it, tho' not intentionally their L——s Aim [far be such a Thought from us] certain however, such Mischiefs have risen thereby; and we are not wanting of Proof, that these Privileges have been employ'd to the depriving certain Persons of their Lives, as surely [it may be not so suddenly] as if the same had been taken away by the Sword or Pistol.

Once again then let us Request you, most worthy *President*, no longer to stand by as an unconcern'd Spectator of these growing Mischiefs, but by the Aid of the learned *Censors*, to call for some, at least, of the most notorious Transgressors of your *Statutes* and the Laws of the Land; suppress these intolerable *Licences*, and vacate their surreptitious *Diploma's*, inflicting condign Punishment upon the
the

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the several Offenders ; without which, in few Years time, the Subject will be at a Loss where to apply for Help, and fall into the Hand of an ignorant *Quack*, whilst he thinks himself applying to an understanding Physician.

'Tis for you Gentlemen to Cure, whilst we can but discover and lay open the Evil ; and I dare say, were but half a Score only made to feel your just Indignation, the rest, like Owls, would shun the Light, or betake themselves to their first and more proper Occupations ; than which, certainly a more acceptable Piece of Service never was, nor can be done for a Commonwealth.

So sensible hereof was the Government in that peaceable Reign of King *James I.* that [as your Predecessor *Dr. Goodall* recites in his History of the College] a
Warrant

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Warrant was sent down from the Council to all Magistrates in the City of London, to take up all reputed *Empirics* and *Quacks*, with other Offenders of this Nature, and to bring them before the *Censors*, to see how they were qualified to be trusted either with the Subjects Limbs or Lives. Some Years after which, the King himself sent his Letters, both to the *President*, as well as to the *Lord Mayor* and *Aldermen*, of the like Import, viz. to take Care that the Citizens of London, might not, by any Wiles or Snares [as now a-days] laid for them by broken Tradesmen, or other *Impostors*, calling themselves Doctors, fall a Prey to their Ignorance; but that the *President* should punish them, according to the Power and Authority he himself had granted them; which Power, till it shall please you to exert for
the

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the just Chastisement of some notorious Offenders [all I can do more towards the reforming the Grievance] it may not be amiss that I should here transcribe, that those who have never seen your *Charters*, nor the Acts by which the Royal Concessions therein granted, have been made and establish'd as so many *Statute* Laws, may have no Cause to plead Ignorance, either of the Necessity of your *Seal* to a *Licence* [if they are upon Examination found qualify'd for] or the Penalty they incur of Practising without the same.

To this Purpose then, among many other Privileges and Immunities granted to the *Royal College of Physicians* in *London*, less material to enumerate in this Place, I find these following, more particularly relating to the Subject in hand, Enacted.

1. *That*

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1. That no Person presume to practise Physic within the City of London, and seven Miles adjacent, without License from the College, under the Penalty of Forfeiture of ten Pounds per Month, during the Time of such Practice, with Imprisonment till such Sum or Sums are paid as aforesaid.

2. That no Person presume to practise in any part of the Kingdom, except Graduates of Oxford or Cambridge, under Penalty of five Pounds per Month, with Imprisonment still as before.

3. That whoever shall administer any dangerous Drug or Medicine, whereby Life may be endanger'd, shall likewise forfeit ten Pounds, and be imprisoned fourteen Days, or after, till such Fine is satisfy'd.

These you know, Sir, are some of the Privileges which have been granted to this illustrious Body; and when some refractory Persons [as I
a find

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find there have been many] have stood the Contest with them, the College I perceive have still justified their Power, and cast their Adversaries, the Lord Chief Justice giving Judgment on this wise, (*viz.*)

That the College have a sufficient Authority to Fine and Imprison, and that he himself could not Bail or Deliver their Prisoner.

That no Licence, whether from Arch-Bishop or Bishop, or other Personage whatever, is valid in Law, or can justify the Person practising, who has not the College Seal; and therefore [so little Pretence has any common Empiric to this Privilege] that no Graduate, even of our own Universities, however Learned a Physician or Doctor, may practise in London, or within seven Miles, without first being examin'd by the College, and obtaining of their Licence.

This

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This last, however sufficiently determined [as one might have thought] by former Recoveries, has not wanted a late Dispute, and a like *Verdict* in the College favour; but passing that which in all likelihood may never be any more disputed, I shall crave your Patience, whilst for the farther Information of these bold Intruders upon the Physicians Office; I give them to understand what is, or has been imply'd by *Practice*, and the several sorts of Offenders, that heretofore were punish'd for the same.

In this number, besides those, who openly acknowledg'd their giving of Medicines, I find *several pretending to heal by Charms, and other such like Fooleries*; thus in King Edward the VIth's Reign, one Grig, a *Poulterer in Surry, being hereof Convicted, and having after this manner imposed on several People, was by an Or-*

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der of Council, set on a Scaffold in the Town of Croydon, with a Paper on his Breast, denoting his Crime of Cheating by means of these hypocritical Actions ; after that, he was set on a Pillory in the Fair-time in Southwark, when the Lord Mayor and Aldermen riding through, the said Impostor ask'd publick Forgiveness.

Others under the Pretence of being seventh Sons, either false, or truly so ; and thus in the Reign of King Charles I. an Order was sent from above to the College, to take into their Examination one Leveret a Gardiner, who under this Pretence had abused several ignorant Persons, some of them altho' of good Condition, and to punish him according to his Deserts ; likewise one Blank, Chandler, and Burton, for Offences of the same or the like Nature.

Others, under the Guise of Fortune-telling, Art Magick, helping to
stolen

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stolen Goods, &c. and thus one Lamb setting up for a Doctor [a bold and notorious Empiric] having procur'd large Sums of Money of Persons of great Worth and Quality; showing them Delusions with a Chrystal; what Husbands or Wives they were to have; killing also divers People with his dangerous Medicines, was at last so ingenious as to acknowledge he knew nothing at all of Physic, but to colour his Cheats, gave any thing he had read, or had been told of; when upon promise of Pardon, he confess'd as to his supposed Magick and Conjuraton, what he did were mere Tricks, Trifles and Fooleries, to gull the simple, get Money, and make Gentlemen merry. One Read and Woodhouse were punish'd also for the like Practices.

Others again, for assuming to give Judgment upon Urine, or to find out all Diseases meerly by sight

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thereof; and thus one Jenkins was punish'd for cheating People after this manner; and a very remarkable Piece of Justice [I wish our Urine-Casters would take Notice of it] I find in Stom, executed upon one of these Offenders, who was set on Horseback, his Face to the Horse Tail, which he was to hold in his Hand instead of a Bridle; he had a Collar of Urinals about his Neck, a Whetstone on his Breast, and so being led in a mock Triumph through the City, was after Banish'd.

*Lastly, [that I may not detain you longer] several others for posting up Bills, and giving them about Streets, wherein they undertook to Cure one or more Distempers: Likewise for writing over their Doors, or putting out Advertisements, that at such Places such or such Medicines were to be sold for such or such Distempers; thus one Fairfax was fined
and*

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and imprison'd for doing great Damage to several People, with what he call'd his Aqua Coelestis. One Anthony, with his Aurum-potabile. One Foster, for selling a Powder for the Green Sickness. Arthur Dee, for advertizing Medicines, with which he pretended the People might cure themselves of all Diseases. One Tenant a Urine-caster, for selling his Pills at six Pounds a Pill, and other Medicines as extravagant, with which he had destroy'd several, and bubbled others out of large Sums of Money. One Aires for selling his purging Lozenges. or Sugar-plumbs. One Hunt for setting up Bills at the Corners of the Streets for the cure of divers Diseases. One Phillips a Distiller, for selling his Strong-waters with Notes of Directions what they were good for, and how the People should take them.

These, with a large Catalogue of the like Offenders [both Men

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These, with a large Catalogue of the like Offenders [both Men

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and Women] having kill'd some with their improper and dangerous Medicines, and cheated others of their Money; some to their utter undoing, were fin'd and imprison'd according to their Crimes, and all of them interdicted Practising for the future. In a word, so careful were these *Guardians* of the Subjects Welfare, as well as of their own Immunities, *that strict Orders were sent to all the Sellers of physical Ales, to examine and see that no unwholsome or dangerous Drug was put therein, whereby the People might receive Prejudice, the Receipts being brought before them for their Approbation.* Farthermore, I observe, that by the occasion of one Cromwell having poison'd his Master with Ratsbane convey'd into a Bolus, which was sent him by the Apothecary; the College most humbly intreated, that for the publick Safety, his Majesty would

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would issue out his Royal Proclamation, strictly forbidding all Grocers, Druggists, Apothecaries and Chymists, to sell any Arsenic, Quicksilver, Sublimate, Precipitate, Opium, Coloquintida, Scammony, Hellebore, or other dangerous Medicaments, to all Strangers or others who would not give in their Names, the places of their Abode, and the Occasions for which they wanted such sort of Drugs.

I have inserted these out of an hundred Examples I could produce, that all such kind of Offenders may be render'd inexcusable, whenever it shall please you to cite them to appear; and in thus doing, I have done no other than my bounden Duty, being sworn to make Presentation of all illegal and dangerous Practitioners, in the Discharge of which, I had once Thoughts of presenting *Nominatim* such and such, but I think the Offenders themselves

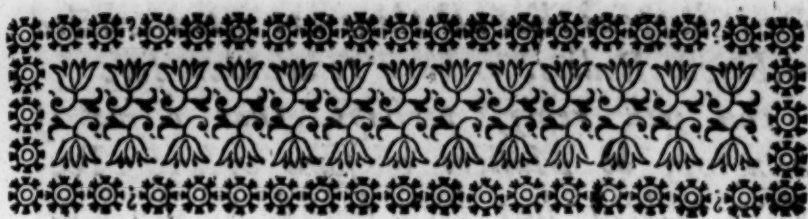
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selves have spar'd me that trouble ;
the most impudent of the Crew
[harden'd by your long forbear-
ance] defying, as it were, your
Statutes, and the Laws of the Land ;
presenting, as I may say, them-
selves, and in their printed *Bills* or
daily *Advertisements*, publishing
their Names, their Places of Habi-
tation, and the Diseases they under-
take to Cure ; nor, certainly,
among the great Numbers, half
ruin'd or quite undone, by some of
them ; can you want sufficient Evi-
dence, in order to Conviction,
whenever it shall please your ho-
nourable Board to set about a *Medi-
cinal Reformation*, which that you
would be so pleased to do, is [as
far as I have inform'd my self]
the Desire of the Professors of
that Faculty, in general, as much as
in particular of,

SIR,

9 NO59 Your humble Servant.

To



TO THE READER.



I Have said so much in the foregoing Dedication, as to my present Undertaking, that there is less need of enlarging here ; only it may be necessary I should remove one Objection I conceive may be raised ; that is, that professing my self a Physician, I may write out of prejudice to those who have intrench'd upon that Profession ; or that finding my own particular Interest thereby lessen'd, I am readier to complain ; to which I think a few Words may serve, and their Veracity must be left at the Readers Mercy. First then, I say, that none but a Physician can be Judge of the present Subject ; 'tis not usual for People of Sense, at least, to chuse a Scrivener to make their Cloaths, a Taylor their Will, or a Shoemaker for their Spiritual Guide ; and
how

TO the READER.

how it happens that all three are often trusted with your Bodies, is hard to account for.

You will reply, perhaps, that either of them may be Masters of some valuable Receipt, which has been found to do much Good in some particular Cases: Now the cheif Design of publishing this Treatise is to prove, that the most useful and noble Remedy, in the Hands of the unlearned, is always found to be the most dangerous, and that none but the Physician can judge rightly in what cases, and at what times of the Disease the same can be administer'd with Safety or Advantage. As for those, who in spite of all Reason or Demonstration, have let in an Opinion that the Art it self is a Cheat, and its Professors Men of ill Designs, I leave them to suffer under the Mistake, and to smart by some old Woman's Management, till they have purchas'd enough Experience to convince them of their Error; tho' I desire not that any should fall a Prey to their Ignorance: And that there are some such in the World, one might be induced to believe, by a late Advertisement I have seen divers times in Print, from an inconsiderate Pretender, who calls himself Gentleman but no Physician; as if for that owning he was never bred to Physic, he was the fitter Person to be entrusted with Men's Lives, and to undertake to Cure them of any Distempers.

But,

TO the READER.

But, Secondly, as to Interest, altho' I am of Opinion that the Interest of Physicians in general, and of my own in particular, is rather promoted than lessen'd by the Toleration of Quacks and Empirics, yet, I am satisfied, their Credit and Reputation is much injur'd thereby, the common People seldom applying themselves till the Case becomes desperate, and that they have been harrafs'd to Death, as well by the improper Drenches given them by these sort of People, as by the Disease it self; when now they expect Miracles should be wrought for them: I do not say that all of you are thus imposed on or misguided; but I can say upon a full assurance of the Truth, that many hundreds of Lives are yearly lost by the too late calling in of a Physician, and some by the too early dismissing his Attendance before the Danger was over: Nor is it less true, however it may appear more strange, that we find many People in some lingering Distempers, trying the utmost of a Quack's Skill for more Months, than Weeks that they will be govern'd by the Judgment of the most learned Physician; and in Acute, or shorter Sickneses the Case is still worse; for here the Mismanagement of the first Day or two is frequently irretrievable, and the Over-sight, or good Husbandry in saving of a Fee, or trying first of all some old Wife's Receipt, has cost many a poor Miser [what next to his Money

TO the READER.

Money is of the dearest value to him, I mean] his Life.

And, Lastly, as to Prejudice, the Author solemnly declares he has none against the Person of any one of the accused; and that nothing but the Mischief redounding to his Fellow Citizens [the daily Consequence of their ignorant and evil Practices] with the Repute of the honourable Profession of Physic in general, so much eclips'd thereby, have been the Motives to this Publication; for as to the pitiful or vain Hope, it might be thought he had taken up, of rendering himself popular by so plain a Performance, the same he thinks sufficiently removed, by his Desire and Endeavour to remain, in this particular,

Your unknown Friend.

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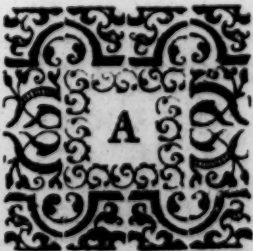
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The A R G U M E N T.

That there can be no Safety in relying upon any Remedy left up and down the Town to sell at Tradesmen's Shops, and publish'd by Bills dispersed for that Purpose, or Advertisements in the Prints; the same being usually made up by ignorant People, who themselves know not their real Use; or by profess'd Quacks, who for base and sordid Lucre only, expose and set the same to Sale.



S the Medicinal Profession upon Account of the Subject about which it is employ'd, has been at all times reckon'd the most useful; so, by reason of the profound Judgment, as particularly by the Dissection of Humane Bodies, to be

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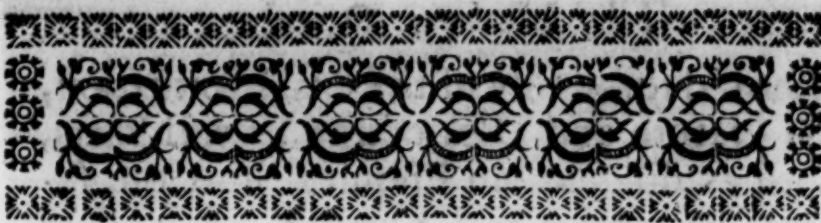
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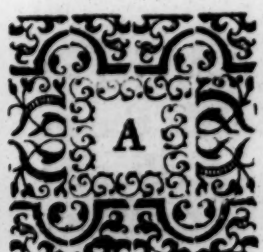


THE Modern QUACKS.

PART. I.

The ARGUMENT.

That there can be no Safety in relying upon any Remedy left up and down the Town to sell at Tradesmen's Shops, and publish'd by Bills dispersed for that Purpose, or Advertisements in the Prints; the same being usually made up by ignorant People, who themselves know not their real Use; or by profess'd Quacks, who for base and sordid Lucre only, expose and set the same to Sale.

S the Medicinal Profession upon Account of the Subject about which it is employ'd, has been at all times reckon'd the most useful; so, by reason of the profound Judgment, as particularly by the Dissection of Humane Bodies, to be

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inform'd throughly of the exact Scituation, the Nature and Uses of the several Parts, with as diligent an Enquiry into the several Properties and Vertues, as well of simple as compounded Medicaments, also the Manner of their Operation when taken into our Bodies: For these Reasons, I say, it has been thought too the most difficult of all others to be acquir'd; and therefore the great Proficients therein, have, by the Learned, been usually, and deservedly, above all others, highly honour'd and esteem'd, even deify'd by some of the Antients. Yet notwithstanding all this, if we survey the Qualifications of some pretending to this noble Profession, a Man would be apt to think it the easiest of all others; or that little else was thereto wanting but the Name of a Disease, without its Definition, and the turning over some *Receipt-Book* to find something there enter'd, as a Remedy for the same.

That this is now the Foundation of some Peoples Knowledge who stile themselves Physicians, and are vulgarly also call'd Doctors, is no very difficult Matter to make appear; from whence I think the Consequence is as easy, That there can be no Safety in taking such Remedies

dies which they set thus to Sale, as other sorts of Merchandize or Trading Commodities.

Having made it my Business to get the best Intelligence I could, of the Authors of these *Medicines*, as well as of the *Medicines* themselves, I found some of them were profess'd *Quacks*, or sorry *Chymists*, both alike ignorant in the Practice of Physick. Others simple Tradesmen, and foolish but bold Women. Others again from some Family *Receipt*, many Years together handed down as some Sacred Relique, by way of Tradition, and kept within their own Walls, as they will tell you, for many Ages, till at length falling to the Share of one unwilling the mighty Treasure should be longer conceal'd, or rather for turning the Penny [which is termed the publick Good] the same is expos'd, with some hard Name, and a large Catalogue of its admirable Virtues. Others, lastly, transfer'd from some Physical *Prescript* on the Apothecary's File, or borrowed directly from the *Dispensatory*, with a Foreign Title, that [like other Things, far fetch'd and dearly paid for] it may please the better. This Charge will be still farther made appear, when I come presently to enquire into the Nature of these Remedies; in the mean time, I will appeal to

all Persons of a common Capacity, whether it be reasonable to venture their Lives [as too many of them do] upon so desperate and weak a Bottom.

If an idle Mechanick, or other Tradesman, having run out his Substance, and not caring to Work at his proper Occupation, procuring a *Dispensatory*, or some other Physick Book in his Mother Tongue, shall thereby understand, that *Gamboge*, as it is called, and *Elaterium*, or the Juice of the *Wild Cucumber*, are the most powerful Remedies to cure a *Dropſy*; that the Root of *Bryony* will do the ſame; that *Hellebore* is good for *Melancholy*, or Mad-People; *Mountain-Flax* for the *Gout* and *Rheumatism*; that *Coloquintida*, or the *Bitter Apple* will do mighty Feats for young Women; that *Mercury* will cure the *French Pox*; *Opium* give Eaſe; and the *Glas* of *Antimony* [ſo call'd] will Vomit, and the like of ſundry others diſpers'd up and down in Physick Books: If, I ſay, ſuch a Perſon as this ſhall ſet about [as perhaps the ſame Book may inſtruct him] the making of *Extracts* or *Electuaries*, *Pills*, *Tinctures*, or *Elixirs*, giving each of them ſome cramp Name, much more if he ſhall deliver them out as he buys them at the Druggiſts Shop, what is it that he may not accompliſh! I would ſay,

say, What Mischief is he not qualified to perpetrate? when, perhaps, the overpoise of the Scale is sufficient to do Execution upon some, and a Dose improporionate, to kill the stoutest Man in the Kingdom. At the best, if any Good can be done [as it may sometimes happen] it is like ten or twenty People's falling down a *Precipice*, where one or two only have the Luck to escape, and that not by their own Skill or Foresight, so much as some unforeseen Incident in their Favour.

If it be here objected, that you do not hear of many such Mischiefs befalling those who have bought these Remedies? I will readily allow the one half of them to be of such a Nature, as to do you neither Harm nor Good; and these seem only levell'd at your Pockets; whilst others are often found more dangerous to the Experimenters thereof. Thus, I observe, among the Delinquents formerly call'd to an Account, and punish'd for such like Crimes, one *John Not*, and divers others, were *Fin'd and Imprison'd* for having kill'd sundry Persons, with one or other of the before-mention'd dangerous Medicines. *Thomazine Scarlet*, with other Women, for tampering with *Mercurial and Antimonial Remedies*, by which others were miserably tormented, and many destroy'd. *William For-*

rester, a Priest, Simon Foreman, a pretended Astrologer, and one Trig a Shoemaker, but desperate bold Empiric, for the like Evil and fatal Practices with some Chymical Preparations. Another for giving Colloquintida, another Elaterium, by which some Persons were murther'd as it were upon the Spot. Another Priest, one Evans by Name, was Prosecuted and Imprison'd, for that it was proved, instead of preaching the Gospel, he had run out of his Province and kill'd several Persons with his Antimonial Cup; and least you should think our present Medicine-makers more honest, a late Author has inform'd us upon his own Knowledge, That a great Parcel of the coarsest and foulest Horse-Aloes were even seen, and had been refused by several Farriers for fear of mischieving their Beasts, was bought up by one of these wretched People, and made into Pills, left to sell at several Places for the most useful Purge, and suited to all Diseases and Constitutions: Under the fatal Operation of some of which, I have seen my self three several Persons destroy'd miserably, and many more, with the utmost hazard of their Lives, escaping.

Indeed, were the Physicians Province so very easy as these Empirics would induce the People to believe, and that there was nothing more necessary than to
find

find a Name for their Distempers, a Remedy [no matter what] call'd now a-days a *Specifick*, is always ready at hand; for which, instead of applying to Physicians, we need but look into the *Newspapers*, and there we have plenty of all sorts, let the Grievance be where it will, even from the falling of the Hair on the Top of the Head, to the Corns upon the Soles of our Feet or Toes.

And thus for the Diseases of the Head and Brain, we have *Cephalick Tinctures* and *Head Pills* of divers kinds: *Apoplectick Spirits* and *Balsams*; *Vapour Drops*, and *Drops* for the *Palsy* and *Convulsions*; for the *Eyes*, we have *Salves* and *Waters* without Number, some of them as far fetch'd as *Jerusalem*, tho' they never travell'd perhaps a Mile from the *Exchange*; not forgetting *Goody Cater* the Oyster-Woman's most excellent *Oyntment*, reveal'd to her Husband's great Grand-father in a Dream; for the *Ears* we have *Drops* for *Deafness*; for the *Tooth-ach*, *Tinctures*, &c. and to whiten them *Dentifrices*, or *Powders* from *Morocco*, *China*, and *Japan*; for the *Mouth*, *Gargles* and *Washes*, many; for the whole *Face* and *Hands*, *Chymical Washballs*, besides *Pearls*, *Cream Balls*, *White-Pots*, and *Custards*, some from *Rome* and *Italy*, others from *Venice*. You see how far these

good People travel even for Remedies to remove *Freckles* and clean our Faces. Come we now to the *Breast*, and here we have *Lozenges* in every Corner for our *Coughs* and *Colds*, *Tinctures* and *Elixirs* for the *Lungs*; *Tinctures* likewise to sweeten the *Breath*, and for the *Phthifick*, and *Asthma*; *Cordials* of all sorts for the *Heart*, and *Rectifiers* of our *Vitals*, which if we believe the *Quack* Authors Account, will supply the Place of all other Remedies whatever, being *Specific* to the whole Body as well as particular Parts. Shall we descend lower, and view the Diseases of the *Stomach*, *Spleen*, *Liver*, *Womb*, *Kidneys* and *Bladder*? and here we have the *Elixir Mag. Stom.* with several Refiners thereupon; *Pills*, *Powders* and *Tinctures*, great Variety, for all sorts of Obstructions; to drive away *Melancholy* from the *Spleen*, we have the *Hypo-Drops*; for the *Stone*, whether in the *Reins* or *Bladder*, we have *Powders*, *Tinctures*, *Distill'd Waters*, *Volatile Cleansers*, and *Dissolution Salts*; for *Cholick* and *Gripes*, *Spirits*, *Tinctures*, *Waters*, *Pills*, *Elixirs*, and what not, some to ease us in a quarter of an Hour, others in half a Quarter; but why should we stay so long, when others will do the Feat in a Minute, especially if taken with a good round Dose of *Geneva*
or

or of *Lovage*, called otherwise their *Gripe-Water*; for *Worms* we have *Purging Tablets*, or to tempt the poor Infant oftentimes to its Destruction, the *Purging Sugar Plumbs*: And to compleat this *Mystery of Iniquity*, if we want Heirs to our Estates, there are *Vivifying Drops* for *Barrenness*, not to mention some other peculiar Remedies suited to the Weaknesses or Infirmities of one kind or other, belonging to the Fair Sex.

But farther, if we take a view of other Disorders, more generally supposed to have their Residence in our Blood and Humours, we are here likewise amply furnish'd. In *Acute Distempers* we have Remedies for *Fevers* of other kinds, as well as for the *Measles* and *Small-Pox*. For *Chronic*, or more tedious ones, as the *Scorvy* [which, by the way is a Name we use for almost all Distempers that we know not what to make of] there are *Elixirs*, *Spirits*, *Waters*, *Electuaries*, and some others; for the *Gout* [that Disgrace to Physicians] we have a *Coal-heaver's Decoction*, an *Old-Woman's Plaister* and *Oyntment*, a *Tarpaulin's East-India Oyl*, besides the *Azyla* of a Quacking Surgeon, and twenty of the same Goodness, *i. e.* good for nothing but to cheat Men, some of their Money, and others of their Lives; for the

the *Leprosy*, a late *Chymical Spirit*, first
 Cosin to King *Atyla* aforesaid; for the
Itch, *Wasbes*, *Oyntments*, *Girdles*, all very
 safe, and harmless as the rankest Poyson,
 which too many, without any Prepara-
 tion of their Bodies, running upon Head-
 long, have wofully experienc'd. But to
 proceed; we have *Consumptions* of all
 sorts pluck'd up by the Roots: we have the
King's-Evil cur'd by that eminent *Physico-
 Chyrurgical* Parson, the Chast, Honest, and
 Pious Mr. V——; the C——y-M—n,
 who has told you at least once a Week
 for these eight or ten Years [least you
 should forget him] that he lives in S——
 L——; lastly, to bring up the Rear of
 this Rascally Regiment, you have *Mother
 Bedlicot's Drink* for the *Dropsy* and *Faun-
 dice*; she, good Woman, used to open the
 Pews at St. Sepulchres, when she could
 spare time from visiting her Patients, and
 always took care that upon her Demise,
 the *Secret* should descend lineally to the
 next Heir, who I am told has the noble
 Legacy now in Possession.

It would be almost endless to enu-
 merate the Remedies these honest Folks have
 invented to ease us, I should say to pick
 our Pockets, and therefore I shall quit my
 Hands of them for the present, after I have
 acquainted you with what is very neces-
 sary

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fary [being a principal part of the Bait] that at the Head of each of these Remedies, I find some very inviting Term, such as *Angelical, Royal, Incomparable, Odoriferous*, [tho' that implies no more than a *Sir——ce*] *Specifick*, [which is now become the universal Epithet, if it were but for a Remedy for broken-winded or founder'd Horses; so that in a little time we shall doubtless have *Specificks* to kill Rats and Mice (about which their Time and Medicines would be better employ'd) as there are already for Lice and Fleas] and most of them *Admirable, Infallible, or Never-failing*.

Upon summing up this Bill of Fare, I found I had left out one of the most material Dishes serv'd up at this Physical Banquet, I mean the All-Sovereign or most *Famous Anodyne Necklace* for Childrens Teeth, [you see the Generosity of these good People extends even to our Infants as well as our selves] prepar'd out of *St. Hugh's Bones*. Now you must know, this *St. Hugh* [mistake me not, I do not mean that *St. Hugh* that lies neglected up and down in the Coblers-Stalls] was a great Lover of young Children, used to dandle them in his Lap, smack his Fingers and sing to them; and finding them pain'd in their Teeth, he would dip his Finger in
Holy

Holy Water, and so going gently over their Gums nine times, upon removing his said Finger the last time, presently popt out the Tooth; he had, moreover, great Virtue in the same Finger in crossing the Forehead three times [for you must know there lies great stress upon an odd Number] to drive away the Head-ach, and the like upon the Bellies of Women in Labour to forward their Delivery. Upon all which Considerations, after his Decease, the good Man being Sainted, the Women came far and near to worship at his Tomb, with their Children when in danger from their Teeth; the great Belly'd for an easy Travel; and the Barren [for they had no *Vivifying Drops* in those Days] that they might conceive.

“ Now it happen'd, that a young Lady
 “ having been long Married to an ancient
 “ Knight [we must not tell their Names]
 “ and without Children, sitting pensively
 “ one Summer Evening in her Garden,
 “ this St. *Hugh* appears, tells her who he
 “ was, that he knew her Wants, and that
 “ if she came to Chapel the same Even-
 “ ing, and *Vespers* being over, conceal'd her-
 “ self in such a part thereof till the Peo-
 “ ple were all gone out, he would again
 “ appear to assist her; but, by the way,
 “ some say it was a Roguish Fryar that
 “ laid

" laid this Stratagem to debauch her ; be
 " this as it may, to go on with our Le-
 " gend, the Lady obeys ; *St. Hugh* comes
 " and lies conceal'd in some other part,
 " when the Religious being all gone out,
 " and the Chapel Doors shut up, our
 " Saint coming out of his Hole, accosts
 " his Lady, prevails by reason of his
 " Sanctity, first telling her he had assum'd
 " his Body for this special Work, lies
 " with her and retires, as does the abused
 " Lady to her Covert till the time of
 " *Mattins*, when Opportunity was given
 " for their Release. In short, upon this
 " Intercourse with the Holy Father, the
 " Lady Conceive'd, went out her time,
 " and by coming daily to *St. Hugh's*
 " Tomb, was deliver'd safely of a Son, who,
 " at about nine Months end, being like
 " to die with his Teeth, she had a Dream,
 " wherein was discover'd to her, that if
 " she could procure one of *St. Hugh's* Toes
 " [whether it was the great or little Toe
 " truly I forget, but admire it was not
 " his Finger that had been used to the
 " Work] and rub the Child's Gums
 " therewith, it would recover : Upon
 " which, not without great Interest
 " made [some say by bribing only of
 " the Sexton] the Coffin was open'd,
 " and the Bone brought, when [com-
 " mend

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“ mend me to the Romancer] no sooner
 “ was the same apply’d to the Child’s
 “ Gum, but up starts two great swanking
 “ Teeth, the Infant presently smiles, and
 “ grew well at the same Instant; however,
 “ to prevent danger from any other
 “ Teeth, the holy Relick being carefully
 “ wrapt up in a piece of Silk, was hung
 “ about little Master’s Neck, and he
 “ thence forwards throve mainly, beyond
 “ all the Children round about the Coun-
 “ try, cutting the rest of his Teeth with-
 “ out a Whimper.

How it happen’d that these Relicks lay
 undisturb’d so many hundred Years [for
 it is time out of Mind that this *St. Hugh*
 flourish’d] I know not; but so it is, that
 a generous *Popish Priest* having got the rest
 of the *Skeleton* into his Possession, has
 brought it over Sea, and [hiring a *Turner’s*
Garret] work’d the same into *Beads* for
Necklaces for the use of the *Hereticks* Chil-
 dren, that as they grow up, their Faith
 may be strong enough to swallow yet
 greater Delusions intended for them by
 him and his Accomplices.

Ah *England! England!* that it ever
 should be said of thee, that even the
 meanest *Masters* of thy Families [since
Popery and *Superstition* have been banish’d
 hence]

hence] should permit, or the *Mistresses* thereof desire, such *Childish Trinkets* [fit only to amuse Ideots or Fools] to be brought in, or hung about their Children's Necks, in Expectation of Advantage by the same? That some of you who scarce have Bread to feed them, or Cloaths to hide their Nakedness, should yet find Money to purchase these Baubles, these most absurd and ridiculous Trifles; that you should, I say, be perswaded, a piece of a dry Stick, or other Vegetable, a Stone or a Bone [no matter which or what] should be able to send forth such salutiferous Emanations; or Steems into the Air, which roving up and down in quest of some proper Object on which to settle, but finding none elsewhere, at length return, and entering the Mouth or Nostrils, or some more secret Passages of the Body, whirl about therein with the Blood, find out their Fellows, call a Council, and mustering up their Forces, strait hasten to relieve the beleaguer'd Gum; here some of them with their Pickaxes break Ground and sap the same; others lay the Train; others blow up the Fortress and make way for the imprison'd Tooth; or if this Allegory be thought too Foreign, some of them must rarefy or attenuate, others relax and mollify: others of them dilate; and lastly, others must incise or Cut, by which, immediate Passage is

now

now granted for the Eruption. This being the Story, I must say, *Quis credat? credat Judeus, Papista credat.*

Some doubtless, and perhaps justly too, may think I have spent too much of my Reader's Time in this *Burlesque*, and that there was no need of so much *Drollery*? To which I shall only reply, that Fooleries of any kind are sometimes best answer'd in the *Drolling* Way, especially where the Argument will not suffer a very serious handling.

To such however as have serious Scruples about this Affair, and shall retort Matters of Fact, as they call them, and alledge the publick Testimonies in *Advertisements*, which give an Account of the great Virtue experienced in these *Beads*; and the Numbers of Children recover'd by wearing of the same; Women eased in their Labours; others cured of Head-achs, Cramps, Convulsions, and the like; to these I say I will now seriously make answer, and doubt not in the least to prove them no other than direct Frauds, and gross Impositions upon Ignorant and Credulous Persons.

First then I say, considering the many thousands of these *Toys* that are sold, the Number is exceeding small, that we hear,
of

of those who have pretended any ways to Benefit thereby; as one perhaps in one hundred. And, *Secondly*, among these, we find the greater part of them misrep-
resented; it being Customary for the Cheat, or his Accomplice, to draw up the Testimonial, and the People [such as can] are to sign or set their Mark, some-
times to they know not what, as I have had it from their own Mouths. Others have given Commissions at large to the Scout, or Messenger, sent out to pick up Informations; and yet the *Advertisement* has come forth as if unknown to the Neck-
lace-Merchant, by way of return of Thanks, or rather for a return of their Money, very likely with Interest, upon Condition of this Liberty of putting what they pleased into the *News-Paper*, with a Promise of vouching it, should there be any occasion. But, *Thirdly*, I find these Informations have been general-
ly obtain'd, one way or other, among the Meager, and some of them Necessi-
tous Persons; not if of better Fashion, from Families where the Mother is much addicted to *Superstition* and *old Wives Fa-
bles*, and the Father about as Wise, if he knows any thing of the Matter. *Fourth-
ly*, It is plain Argument of the great Want of New and almost Dayly *Advertisements*,

C

[of

[of which they could not stand in need, if the Thing it self were not in the Vulgar Phrase, a Bite] for that once in a Month, sometimes after three or four, we find an old Story trump't up, as if just then fallen out; among some of which, finding my self concern'd, I shall here deliver the Case truly.

A poor Woman brought her Child to me, then labouring under what we call a *Symptomatic Fever*; looking into its Mouth, I found two of the upper Gums full spread, highly inflam'd, and the Teeth just ready to break through; however, by reason of the Fever and great Fluxion, I prescrib'd, among other Remedies, Bleeding, Blistering, and above all, that they would send for a Surgeon, to cut into the affected Gums, and set at Liberty the Teeth, which gave rise to this Fever, as I had reason thus to conjecture: But the foolishly fond Mother being afraid of the Lancet [the best and speediest Remedy at such times] neglects this latter part of the Advice, and whether the rest was pursued I know not; but few Days after, I heard in the Neighbourhood, that she had with the simple Multitude, purchas'd the famous *Anodyne Necklace*, which had not been worn long, before one of the Teeth [just coming out

as I observ'd but now] did cut, soon after the other, and the Child grew easier, as was to be expected.

This Tale, by a *Scout*, was presently got hold of, brought in, and drest up with all the Formality of a wonderful Recovery, partly true, and partly false; true in that the Teeth came out [and so they had if the *Necklace* had never been heard of]; false, in that they had taken Advice of the whole *College of Physicians*, of whom none but my self was ever consulted, and mine [as you have heard, in the most material Point, if in any one] not follow'd; and all this to magnify the great Virtue in *St. Hugh's Bones*; but observe now the Sequel of this Story.

When this Tale had been often told, and worn as it were Thread-bare [by which I suppose their *Advertisements* thereof, were well paid for, in bringing more Fools to their Market] it happen'd some Months after, as if *Old Nick* owing them a spight was now minded as we say to pay them; some new Teeth coming out, the Child was again brought very low and weak, and trusting to the *Famous Anodyne Necklace*, they sought for no other Help, till it was too late; when at length, behold, the very Day the old Story was advertis'd, and drest up to all the Advantage imaginable,

with the Parents return of Thanks, unknown to the Author, and such like fulsome Lies, the poor Infant expires with the *Miraculous Beads* about its Neck; and certainly, unless they had not quite abandon'd all Modesty, as well as common Honesty, they would have prudently suppress'd this particular *Advertisement* for the future; yet so shameless and scandalous do I find them, as to continue this very Relation with an additional Piece of fine Wire-drawing, *viz.* That the said Child, by means of the *Necklace*, is so recover'd of all his Weakness, that he is grown a very fine Boy [twas much their Hands being in, they had not made a Man of him] and can run alone; whereas, had themselves sent to enquire, they must have known he had been Dead [and of his Teeth as I have told you] several Months past.

Many the like Examples I have heard of, from Persons of the greatest Credit; some of them having curs'd their Credulity, in suffering themselves to be imposed on, and thrown the *Popish Trumpery* [as they now call it] into the Fire. But, *Lastly*, granting all of them to be Facts, there needs not many Words to prove them of no Force for the End propos'd; it being certain, that most Children be-
tween

tween seven and twelve Months old, sooner or later, must cut some of their Teeth; if now when a Child is indispos'd thereby, a *Necklace*, or any other Toy, is put on at the time of its breaking forth, or perhaps two or three Days before, this Tooth, I say, had inevitably broke thro', whether the Beads, or other Toy, had been left on or off; and if the Parent had written *Hocus Potus, adsis Dens?* on a piece of Paper, in the stead of the *Necklace*, take my Word, it would have done every jot as much Service, in bringing forth the Tooth.

If they would have the Argument prove any thing, they should prove, that no Child, [at least the greater Number] ever wore it but with some Advantage; whereas, on the contrary, there are some Scores I have seen with it for several Months, pining and languishing to no purpose, till a Lancer has been admitted, and then some of them have recover'd. Others meerly by Strength of Nature, not by any Efficacy of these Childish Amusements, have at last weather'd the Point, whilst great Numbers die dayly, in spite of *St. Hugh's Toes*, or his *Teeth* either; but if the few having it on, shall happen to cut their Teeth, no Matter, says the Impostor, for the thousands that die with

it on, for you are never sent of this Errand to the Parents of the Dead.

You will say, perhaps, the Author has shew'd himself a learned Man, and a great Philosopher, proving also that many strange Feats may be done by *Sympathy*, or by means of *invisible Atoms*, *Miasms*, *Aporrhaes*, *Effluvias*, *Emanations*, *Exhalations*, with abundance of hard Words; and that *Paracelsus*, *Van Helmont* and Sir *Kenelm Dygby* were of the same Opinion; and, lastly, that he has appeal'd to the *Royal Society*.

To all which I shall answer as shortly as I can; That I take him, indeed, to be a very shrewd Man, and that he has thrown out as good a *Bait* for Fools as perhaps was ever known in *London*, and prosecutes as likely a *Method* to carry on his Design, which yet is not supported but on very large Expense; for no longer than he is Piping with his *Advertisements*, will the Fish come to the *Bait*.

He has likewise given us a great many hard Names, and told us some wonderful Stories, some True, which prove Little; others False, which prove Nothing, unless that the Author telling them as Truths, is not to be credited in any thing he says. *Paracelsus* and *Helmont* were both *Quacks*, as himself, yet of much larger Talents in the *Physical Science*; the former, however

ever a mad Extravagant, the latter a whimsical *Enthusiast*, each, notwithstanding, of a singular and great *Genius*; and I dare believe in Principle, both *Honest*er than himself. *Sir Kenneth*, a most renown'd Personage, a very great Naturalist, but no Physician; nor has his *Sympathetick* Cure of Wounds any ways vacated or superseded the Practice of Surgery, [I know where it has forty times made Work for that Profession] any more than this ridiculous Bead-roll is like to do that of *Physic*; they having both of them been sufficiently prov'd Fallacious and idle Dreams; the one however, of an honest and well-meaning *Nobleman*, the other [as it is credibly reported] of a knavish and designing *Priest*.

But still you may farther argue, if the Project was no better than a Cheat, how comes it that Dr. *Paul Chamberlen* of the College of Physicians, should suffer his Name to be set, as a kind of Sanction thereunto? To this last raised Objection I shall answer as tenderly as I can. Dr. P. C. [who, by the way, was not a Member of the College] is now gone to his Place, and can't answer for himself: nor can I for him, any better than that there were more Reasons than every body knew, why his Name was used to give

Credit, and support this piece of R——y; some of them have been already guest at in Print, and his Executors, I dare say, can tell yet more. I have already told you he is gone, and can say nothing to me, and therefore all I shall say more of him is this, that when a learned Physician of my Acquaintance took him to Task upon this Matter, and endeavoured to make him sensible of the Scandal to himself as well as to the whole Faculty of Physic; he put off the Discourse with a Smile, saying, *The Thing was harmless, and suited to the People's Humours; and that if the Children, for want of it, could not benefit in their Teeth, the Mothers, by the force of Fancy, might be eased in their Deliveries; and that lastly, it had as much Virtue as any other external Remedy of this Nature, which the People seem'd extremely fond of; which* [what all the sensible part of Mankind knew before] just none at all; nor I dare say [if you will not take my Word for it] can you find one Gentleman of the *Royal Society*, that will not readily acknowledge as much as all I have said amounts to.

PART

PART II.

The ARGUMENT.

That supposing some of these Remedies were at first directed by the most learned Physician, and afterwards compounded or prepar'd by an honest Artist, yet in this way of their Administration, it cannot otherwise fall out, but that many more must be injur'd [at least if they are good for any thing] than can be benefited thereby.

THis 2d general Proposition, I ground, 1. Upon the similitude or likeness of one Disease with another; by which, Physicians themselves, who have had all Opportunities by a View of the Patient, and strict Enquiry into all Circumstances, have, notwithstanding, been sometimes unhappily mistaken. 2. Upon the differing Constitutions, as well as differing Circumstances of some others, labouring under the same Distemper, requiring still a divers Method of Healing. 3. From the same Disease, differently circumstantiated one Day, perhaps an Hour from what it is the next, and quite altering the first Intention. 4. From divers Causes giving Rise to the same Distemper, and which are always to be respected carefully by every good Physician. 5. And lastly,

lastly, From particular Idiosyncrasy's, a hard Word I must confess for a common Reader to understand, ~~and which I know not~~ how to express otherwise, than its implying something in our Natures, by which one Man naturally abhors, or loaths, what another is pleased with, and so contrarily.

From some one or more of these [which are not all I could enumerate, but enough I think to my Purpose] I shall here, I say, undertake to evince that you run exceeding Hazards, by meddling with any Medicine, however good in its kind, recommended in this way of *Advertisement*, notwithstanding the best printed Directions that can be given therewith.

And for the clearer Representation of this Affair, I shall, by way of Demonstration, give at least one Example [my intended Brevity not allowing more] under each of the foregoing Heads; and I will begin with that very common Disease the *Cholick*: Now this you all know, is a Name by which we are apt to signify any Pain, whether fix'd or moving, in the Stomach or Bowels. It is indeed a Word of Latitude, and contains several *Species* [if I may be allowed the Expression here] under one common *Genus*; and thus there is a *Cholick* [the most frequent of any other] arising from *Wind* pent up in some
part

part of the Stomach or Guts. There is a *Cholick* from Cold, Phlegmatic Humours also heap'd up and obstructing the same Parts. There is a *Cholick* from what Physicians properly enough call *Bile* or yellow *Choler*, hence nam'd a *Bilious Cholick*, arising from this Humour fermenting with some others in these Parts also, and exciting the most cruel Torments. Again, there is a *Cholick* proceeding from an Inflammation of these Parts, attended with very cruel, and often fatal Symptoms, as *Gangrene* and *Mortification*. Farther, there is a *Cholick* from a Hurry and Confusion of the Spirits, rushing as it were impetuously upon the Bowels, and producing exquisite Pains in the Stomach or Guts, with Vomiting sometimes, as in a true *Cholick*: At other times the Pain is seated on the Kidneys and Neck of the Bladder, which in consult with that excellent Physician Dr. Mead, I was once a Witness of, occasioning a total Suppression of *Urine*, and putting on the exact likeness of a *Cholick* from the *Stone* or *Gravel*; and this we call an *Hysterick Cholick*. There is, lastly, a *Cholick* from the said *Gravel*, which we call the *Stone Cholick*, and which by Consent of Parts, in many Symptoms, resembles also the common *Cholick*.

You

You may object, that albeit there may be many Causes of these *Cholicks*, yet if the same Remedy will remove the Complaint, no matter whether he who sells it, can rightly distinguish these several Causes; and indeed, if this could be made out, I would grant due weight to the Objection; but the contrary is most notorious, and by this Mistake, abundance of Patients have miscarry'd; for tho' many of the *Species* have some common Accident or Symptom, such as *Pain*, *Vomiting*, *Costiveness*, with small or no *Fever*; others great *Heat*, *Thirst*, with *Fever* attending; others, as we said just now, with *Strangury* or *stoppage* of *Urine*; yet these arising from very differing Causes, and producing also differing Consequences, must be treated therefore in a quite differing Method. 'Tis own'd they all agree in one common Symptom, I mean *Pain*, implying, as it might therefore seem, one common Remedy, *viz.* some *Opiat* to take off the same. But he who first goes to take off this Symptom in some of them, without having an Eye to remove the Cause, fixes the same deeper, and sometimes thereby puts it out of the Power of the most suitable Remedy afterwards to relieve the Sick who had been thus ignorantly treated.

To

To explain this Matter a little farther; He, who in the Inflammatory, or Bilious Cholick, sends for any of the common Cholick Waters, [as they are mischievously termed] whether the famous J— M—rs, the never failing G—s, which is nothing else but *Louage Water*, the common, and now well known Remedy of *Daffy*; or, in a word, a Quartern of *Geneva* [which alone has destroy'd more than our thirty Years War, and will do the Business as well as the best of them] not forgetting the *burnt Brandy* prepar'd at home; he, I say, who takes this Method, at this time, is little wiser than one who claps the Muzzle of the Pistol into the Patient's Fundament, and lets fly, in hopes to clear the Way of all Obstructions: Pardon the Comparison, but I can assure you, the one is likely near upon with the other, to destroy the Diseased and the Disease together. Again, he who shall attempt, and give one of the strong Glysters, much more the Purges at this time, which are customary in the Cold, Phlegmatick, or Vitreous Cholick, will act as wildly; the same will have the like evil Tendency in the *Hysterick Cholick*, where the chief Intention is by some of the *Ferid* or *Hysterick* Remedies, so called, mix'd with *Opates*, to take off the Hurry, and bridle the exorbitant

orbitant Outrage of the Spirits. Farther, He likewise who pursues this Course with hot inflaming Spirits, and hot Purges, in expectation of easing the *Stone-Cholick*, where soft, glib, slippery and oily Medicines, lenient Glysters, and cooling Purgatives, with *Opiates*, especially in the Fit, are indicated, will be as much disappointed. On the contrary, He who directs cold Water, Milk and Water, Barley Water, Almond Milks, and the like, in the Cold Phlegmatick *Cholick*, [howbeit well suited to the Bilious and Hot] where the hotter Carminative Compositions, warm Glysters, and brisk Purges, bridled however with some *Opiate*, are requisite, will shoot also as wide of the Mark.

Hence I think it will appear self-evident, that whoever trusts to any of these *Anticholical* Remedies, so denominated and sold about the Town, must expect to risque his Health, if not his Life, since the Chance is so great of its doing more Hurt than Good; and if the best Physicians are sometimes puzzled, who attend at the Bed-side of the Patient, and inform themselves all they can, yet find, by a peculiar Symptom, or accidental Appearance afterwards, that they had gone before upon a wrong Notion of the Case, which being by this new Discovery let into, they quickly

quickly after can relieve the Sick Person; if this be so, as frequently falls out, how I say, is it to be expected, that any single Medicament, made up by a Quack who knows nothing of these Distinctions [or if he did, could in this way provide for the same] can answer the Expectation, You see it *must be Hot, and it must be Cold; it must Purge strongly, weakly, and it must not Purge at all; it must cause Rest, and must prevent Sleep,* with several other very opposite Qualities, which are contradictory in the very Terms, and therefore both impossible and impracticable in this publick way.

The second Objection I raised against these Quack-Remedies sold at the Shops, was founded on the differing Constitutions, and divers Circumstances otherways attending upon the same Patient; and I will here instance in another popular Disease, the *Scorvy*, which together with that of the *Worms*, father many more Distempers than they have a just right to, and by the mistaken Conceptions whereof, many adult Persons have suffer'd by the one, as thousands of Children have done by the other. I deny not but they are both common Diseases, yet I would have no one take a Remedy for either, till by the Judgment of some able Physician, they are in-

inform'd what Ground they go upon; but I hasten to my Business.

The *Scorvy* has been usually, by all good Modern Writers, divided into a *Salino Sulphureous*, and a *Sulphureo Saline*; but these being Words not at all intelligible to common Readers, for which this is designed chiefly, we shall distinguish it only as *Acid* and *Salt*, or, if you please, a *cold* and a *hot Scorvy*; and indeed without regard to this simple Division, it is impossible either to conceive a true Notion of the Disease, or to adapt Remedies for the Cure: Some have made a middle *Species*, and truly with respect to some *Temperaments*, lying betwixt the two Extremes, not improperly.

Now as the *Acid* or *Cold Scorvy* will dispense with some of the hot and biting Plants, such as *Horse-radish*, *Asfmann*, *Scorvy-grass*, *Wormwood*, *Aron-Roots*, *Winters-Bark*, *Orange-Peel*, and the like; with *distill'd Waters*, *Tinctures*, *Wines*, *Spirits*, extracted thence; so contrarily, the *Sulphureo Saline*, or the *Hot Scorvy*, requires the more cold or temperate; such are *Endive*, *Dandelion*, *Plantane*, *Fumitory*, *Cichory*, *Sorrel*, and such like; either in *Decoctions*, *Infusions*, or the simple *Juices* clarified, which exceed all other Forms. The middle sort may have them chosen out of both

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both the foregoing, as may best suit the Patient's Temperament or Constitution, without regard to which, it will be impossible any one afflicted with this Distemper, can ever receive the Advantage that otherwise he might, and no wonder that in over-looking thereof, so many People fall under worse Circumstances than before, much heightening the very Symptoms, of which they thought themselves pursuing the Cure; and here I think I have a fair Opportunity to acquaint you, that those very common Remedies, with which more especially the Town is stock'd by *Quacks* and *Empiricks*, I mean the *Spirits of Scorvy-grass* [to thousands of whom each has prov'd a very scurvy Spirit] whether plain or purging, have been some of the most pernicious and destructive Remedies that were ever advertised in Publick, especially to the *hot, saline, squalid, and emaciated* Habits, whose Blood has been thereby fired to that degree, and the Disease so aggravated, that I have seen hundreds of them broke out with Blotches and Boils, who were clear before the taking thereof; others have become as it were Leprous; others drove into Hecticks and Consumptions, and the Spots or Eruptions growing ten times worse under the expected Remedy. Nor

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is it likely it should happen otherwise, where no regard is had, as I said before, to these three different States, Temperaments, or Habits of Body, but led away with the empty Name of *Spirits of Scordy-grass*, giving the same promiscuously to all of them.

From these *Spirits* I might pass to others, tho' not of the like Nature, yet of the same Form; particularly the two late ones set up for Sale by some of the same People, I mean the *Spirit of Ground-Ivy*, and the *Spirit of Bohea-Tea*, as to which my time will not allow me to make farther Remarks, than that they seem all of them to contain much more of the Artificial Productions of the Element, made use of to extract them, than the simple or natural Ones of the Plant they are drawn from; or, [as an excellent Physician has well observ'd of some others] that they are rather Creatures of the Fire, than real or inherent Qualities existing before therein; and that notwithstanding they may be well enough suited to some few Cases, where the hot and spirituous *Regimen* [as Physicians call it] is allowable, yet, generally speaking, they are much more hurtful than beneficial; and whoever will be at the Pains of infusing or steeping the well-dry'd Plant in hot Water,

Water, as the common Tea is prepar'd, or taking the clarify'd Juice from the Green one, when the Season will admit, will have a Remedy infinitely preferable to these fiery Spirits.

*As to the Teas, peculiarly so termed, a foolish Custom has now brought them into such Request among People of all sorts, that to go about the crying them down were to little purpose; nor indeed till we know what better Amusement to introduce [for there is, it seems, no Conversation that can be upheld without some tipling of one kind or other] in their room, would it be expedient. The present have many powerful Advocates on their side, any one of which might endanger the over-setting a single Adversary; for first of all, if these Liquors were disus'd, the Crown would be robb'd of a considerable Revenue; the *E. I. C.* put to their Trumps to send abroad so much of our Silver, which they barter away for these dry Leaves, and some other Toys and Trifles, especially the Earthen Ware that comes along with them; [but sure it is no more than right, that those who furnish the *Regalio*, should send us likewise the Utensils with which it is dish'd out]; and lastly, to name no more, the Grocer would be at as great a loss to

get off his Loaf-Sugar; so that upon all these Considerations, we will leave it where we found it, with this farther Admonition to all those who have a value for their Gums and Teeth, if nothing else, that they would leave off thus perpetually Codling or Parboiling of them, unless they intend them, at long run, to be served up at the same Table for a second Course. In a word, I can't think any of these scalding hot Infusions, fit for any other than a Physical use; but if they must take place, methinks 'tis great pity we are oblig'd to send so far for somewhat, whose Place [were we minded to make the Enquiry] might be as well, if not much better, supply'd at Home, it being a certain Truth, that no Man walks a Mile from the Town's end, but treads upon many a more useful Plant than this; but to return to our Subject, the *Scorvy*.

There is, farthermore, scarce any thing so common, as to find this Disease complicated with some others, requiring variety of Prescriptions and Compositions suited to the present Indication, that is, such other peculiar Ingredients in the *Anti-scorbutick* Mixture, as may best answer the variety of Symptoms, which are so various at sometimes, that the highest Prudence, and great Judgment, is often wanted

wanted to trace out the Original, and to know certainly, whether the same are Symptoms only of the *Scorvy*, or primary and original Diseases of themselves : thus to instance, In the *Head*, we have often *Giddiness* and great Pain, like a common *Head-ach*; rotten or putrid Gums in the Mouth like the *Canker*, as the good old Women call it; in the *Breast*, *Palpitation of the Heart* and *Swooning* : *shortness of the Breath*, as in the *Asthma*; in the *Belly*, *Cholicks* and *Bloody Fluxes*, as from other Causes; with wandering and flying Pains in the *Limbs* like the *Rheumatism*; together with sundry other intricate Symptoms, which in adapting our Remedies to the Disease in general, are always most heedfully to be respected; and for which therefore, none of these *Quack* Remedies, how carefully soever compounded, can make a necessary Provision.

My third Exception against these *Empirical* Medicines publish'd in this way, was taken from the Consideration of the same Disease circumstantiated differently one Day, perhaps one Hour, from what it was in that before, or may be the following, and requiring also a quite differing Method in the Cure: And here I shall give Example in that most terrible, but common Distemper, the *Gravel* and *Stone*,

which in the Fit requires one Remedy; out of it, another; or if too big to pass [here also the learned Physician can only judge] *one Intention; if passing, a second; and if passed into the Bladder, a third: And here, I say, the Presence of an experienc'd Physician is as much wanted as any where, and a Mistake herein has often cost the poor tormented Patient his Life; torment- ed, I say, by his Disease, and still farther tormented by a Quack Remedy he had rashly taken; but farther to enlarge up- on this Subject by way of Explanation. When the Stone then is fix'd in the Kid- ney, and too big to pass* [known only as above by the Scrutiny of an able or experienc'd Physician] *all we can do here, is rationally to blunt the Pain with Anodyne or Opiate Medicines suited thereunto; whilst in the mean time we try to sheath the Acrimony of the Humours by proper Emulsions, Almond-Milks, and other soft or Mucilaginous Medicines, as Physicians call them, having regard also to the bloody Water that is sometimes made, when the Stone shall happen to shift its Place, and with its Points or Angles wound some of the tender Vessels.*

When the Stone [being passable] is moved down into the Ureter [*the Passage from the Kidney to the Bladder, so named,*
about

about the bigness of a small Goose quill, long, and somewhat distorted like the Letter *s*] we are then, by some oily, glib, soft, smooth, or slippery Medicines, as before observed, Turpentine Clifters, also emollient Oyls and Baths externally, to attempt the dilating of these narrow Pipes, and make way for its descent or passing on; in the mean time, directing also [as aforesaid] proper Anodynes to appease the Pain, or blunt the exquisite Sensation thereof; and believe me, whoever shall give or take at this Juncture, either Tipping's Liquor, the Volatile Cleanser, Rogers's Powder, or any other, even Honorato Fornello, Gent. and no Physician, his Dissolution Salt, will run great danger of encreasing their Torture, plugging up the obstructing Stone, and miserably destroying you; the mildest Diuretic, or Urine-forcer, doing, at such times, incredible Mischiefs: And altho' some of them may be after useful, together with diluting Liquors, to cleanse the Passages, and wash the Kidneys; yet the Continuance of them unseasonably, has sometimes both weaken'd the Urinary Parts, and brought more of this fabulous or gravelly Matter, together with some concreting Salts out of the Blood, than might otherwise have fallen down; so that upon all these Considerations, you must surely be

apprized how dangerous it will be for you to rely upon any of these, however celebrated Remedies, sold up and down the Town by *Quacks*, or ignorant Persons; not one of which either ever was, or can be so contriv'd, as to answer all the proper Intentions, how *specifically* soever they are compounded: Of which farther presently, when we enquire into their Nature.

My fourth Reason for dissuading you against these Medicines, was taken from the vastly differing Causes, giving Rise to the same Distemper, and which are always carefully to be respected, in our Physical Prescriptions for the same. And here I shall set before you, one of the most common [and which through tampering first of all with *Quack Remedies*, and old Wives *Receipts*, at least for want of timely Application to the learned Physician, makes one of the most considerable Numbers in our Bills of Mortality] that is a *Consumption*, of which, besides the general distinction of *Original* and *Symptomatical*, we have from one of the best Writers of this Distemper [and who knew as well as any other how to cure it] the following particular ones reckon'd up; as a *Consumption* from great Loss of Blood, or other Evacuations, as from *Ulcers*, *Fistula's*
or

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or *Apostems*; from giving *Suck*, a *Looseness*, *Diabetes*, *Sweats*, *Salivations*; likewise, *Consumptions* from a *Dropsy*, the *Kings-Evil*, *Scorvy*, *Asthma*, *Melancholy*, *Stones in the Lungs*, the *French Pox*: Again, there are *Consumptions* from the *Green-sickness*, *Intermitting Fevers* or *Agues*, *Pleurisies*, *Jaundice*; from the *Gout*, *Rheumatism*, with certain others too tedious and unnecessary farther to take notice of.

Now altho' in each of these we have one general Aim, *viz.* the recruiting the decay'd Habit; yet not only the Symptoms, such as the *Cough*, *Looseness*, *Sweats*, &c. afford divers Indications, and a different Management, but in each of them, very singular regard is to be had to the *original* Disease, of which these Symptoms are only Consequents: Thus for Example, if we think to cure a *Consumption* from the *Evil*, with the same Remedies we set upon another from a *Dropsy*; or if we undertake to cure another from *bleeding at the Nose*, or other parts of the Body, with those we direct for the Cure of one from an *Asthma*, *Scorvy*, or *Jaundice*, we shall find our selves very much out of the way of obtaining our desired Ends: No wiser is he, who enterprizes the Cure of a *Pocky Hectic* with *Antiscorbuticks*, requir'd in the Cure of a *Consumption*

tion from the *Scorvy*; nay, if he mix not the *Counter-poison*, I mean some *Mercurial* Preparation, with his *Pectoral* or *Anti-phthifical* Remedies, at least orders them not between whiles, he will find he is doing somewhat worse than washing the *Aethiopian* White, that is losing his Labour only, but is accessary also to the poor Man's Death, which, in all probability, had been prevented by the Care of a more understanding and expert Physician. In a word, he who fancies he can cure any one of these *Consumptions* we have already recounted, with the same Regimen, that may be truly useful for some other of them, is upon the same level of Understanding with the Undertaker, to fit all Bodies with the same Suit of Apparel; since it is manifestly apparent, that in each of them, the Method must be in some Particulars varied, and consequently many of them thus differing, even *radically* one from the other, there can be no radical Cure [according to the vain Pretence of one of our present Receipt Quacks] by any single Remedy whatever, even that very common Symptom attending almost all of them, especially towards the Conclusion, I mean the *Cough*, requires the utmost of our Caution and Circumspection, in endeavouring to ease

ease the Sick herein ; for tho' many of them bear *Opiates* well, and that we can do little or nothing without them, as in the *Melancholy* particularly, and several others with a thin *Catarrh*, or with a dry *Convulsive Tickling*, and a tolerable good Breathing ; yet in some others, as the *Scorbutic* with a tough *Phlegm*, difficult *Expectoration*, and short *Breath* ; in the *Hydropic*, and especially the *Asthmatic*, half a Grain of *Laudanum*, given by some Quack or Empiric, has sent many of these People to their long Home ; the Authors of whose untimely Ends [had Justice taken Place] ought, from the Gallows, to have been sent after them.

I come now to my last Objection against these Medicines, which I took from the singular and unaccountable *Antipathies* of particular Persons, against some particular Ingredients in a Composition ; which, how mean soever it may appear to be raised here, has always had great Regard in Physic ; and the want of Foresight or Pre-consideration thereof, has been exceedingly pernicious to some Patients, and has also disgraced the Physician. To instance in one or two Examples : Some few *Hysteric Women* there are, who receive a very singular Relief by a full Dose of Musk or Civet, whereas a Grain of either, to the greater

greater Number of that Sex, is exceedingly displeasing, and to some of them has been almost fatal. Again, There are some of both Sexes who can bear Opium well, and sleep quietly therewith; whilst others are confounded, and almost distracted, till the Effects of it are worn off. The least quantity of Honey will purge and swell up some as if they were Poison'd: Hence Diascordium, Venice-Treacle, and Mithridate, not only upon this Account, but sometimes also upon some other Secret, or, as we say, natural Antipathy or Aversion, instead of being Antidotes, are like Poison it self to some particular Constitutions. Mint-Water to one I know, is the most certain Vomit, tho' it stops that Complaint in almost all others. Saffron, a Cordial to the generality, I have also observed by the like Secret, Antipathy, has caused others to faint away, either by the Smell or Taste. It were too tedious to reckon up more of this kind, which the prudent Physician, by converse with his Patient, and Enquiries of this Nature, can easily obviate and provide against; but of which, in this publick way of purchasing Quack Remedies [I wish I could say that were all] you must run the Hazard.

I have given only a single Instance under each Head of these Objections, that I might not swell this little Tract beyond
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its intended Bounds; and indeed to have singled out each Disease, and commented thereon, would have been to have writ a kind of Physical History for the use of Physicians, who know, perhaps, already [at least many of them] more than my self, instead of some short Hints and Instructions, for the use of others, and for whom this present Disquisition is only intended; for there is no Distemper with which we are afflicted, but in unfolding after the same manner, I could easily make it appear, and I hope also, convince you, that no Remedy for any of them, this way recommended, can be securely rely'd on; that it may possibly afford some Benefit, but much more probably do you a Mischief; or in other Words, that in about twenty, there is one Chance for, to nineteen, against you. Who then that has his Senses would thus act in the Dark in an Affair so valuable as their Health? Or who thus *throw the Dye, as it were, upon the Drum-head, for their Life*, if they could avoid it?

Can you now believe it possible, in so great variety of Symptoms, appearing under the same Disease, some of them so contradictory to each other in their Indications or Intentions of Healing; so great Affinity or Likeness of one Disease with another in some common
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Symptoms, yet requiring, as you see, a various Method, the Mistakes in which have been of the highest Consequences; such diversity of Habits or Constitutions likewise to be carefully respected; also the sudden Changes and Alterations; the different Appearances one Hour of the same Distemper, from what it was the Hour before, or may be next, and calling for a quite different Prescription; the Sympathies and Antipathies natural to some certain Persons likewise to be observed: I say, if you can believe all these are to be provided for by any simple Quack Remedy whatever, left to sell at a Tradesman's Shop, you must believe at the same time, that a Taylor, Shoemaker, nay, that any Old Woman who can neither read nor write, nor yet speak intelligibly, knows as much of Medicine as the best of us all; or that one who never look'd into a Humane Body, may be as well acquainted with all the minutest Parts therein, their Scituation and Use, as the greatest Master of Anatomy. But I must believe better of the Generality of my Readers, most of which, I dare think, have been thus imposed on for want of having the Truth set in a clear Light, and in a Way suited to their Understandings.

PART III.

The ARGUMENT.

An Enquiry into the Nature of some of these Medicines [by which their Insufficiency of answering their proposed Intentions, will farther appear manifest] their twofold general Division, with the Consequences attending some of them in this publick way of their Recommendation.

I Shall now make a brief Enquiry into the Nature of these Remedies, such of them, I mean, as by one way or other have come to light; for I pretend not to be thoroughly acquainted, unless with very few, nor would I give one Farthing to be Master of them all; and these I shall divide into two sorts, 1. Such as some way alter; 2. Such as empty our Bodies of some particular Humours.

I shall begin with the Alterative, the principal of which are the *Stomach Medicines*, as supposed to strike at the Root of Diseases, and promoting the first Digestion; among which, the *Bitters* are the most famed, and of which we have great Plenty. The *Royal Bitter Tincture*; the *Glorious* or *Golden Elixir*; the *Great Stomach*

Stomach Elixir, &c. these are all of them prepar'd of one or other, fewer or more, of the following Simples; *Gentian, Galingal, Zedoary Roots; Tops of Centaury and Wormwood, Orange Peel* [which is the chief of the *Great Elixir*] *Seeds of Cardemome and Coriander*, to which some add the *Aromatics* or *Spices*, such are *Nutmegs, Cloves, Mace, &c.* these should be infus'd cold for some Days in Wine, or in good *French Brandy*; but are generally [for a *Worldly Reason*] steep'd in a stinking, nasty *Malt-Spirit*, or at the best, a *Molasses*.

In remarking these, when duly prepar'd as aforesaid, I am far from undervaluing what all Physicians frequently direct as they see occasion; but the preposterous Use, or the taking them without Advice, has render'd them rather Mischievous than Beneficial; a sad Instance of this we have in our common *Whetters*, as they are called: Now these People, it is certain, in some of our Taverns about the *Exchange*, meet with a much wholesomer *Bitter* than most of the foregoing *Spirits*; but their constant Recourse to it, their doubling and redoubling their *Gills*, or *half Pint Ours*, instead of strengthening, soon destroys the Tone of their *Stomachs*, entirely extinguishing their natural Heat,

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parboiling in a manner its Coats, after unbending or relaxing the Fibres thereof, and laying asleep its *Stimulus* or *Esurine Ferment* [call'd so by some Physicians] or rather drowning the same ; so that instead of exciting or raising what they aim at, when they come to the best furnish'd Table the very sight of the Food fatiates, and the Steams make them rise up sometimes and run away from the same : They freight grow pall'd and faint, and having no way to recruit their Spirits, are forced to return, if not to their *Bitters*, perhaps to the Brandy Bottle, at least they take Sanctuary in the Tavern, where the Cook is consulted to put some Cheat upon their Stomachs, and humour their Appetites, with the Wing of a Pheasant, or a Partridge, tho' that of a Lark is oft as much as they can compass : till the Night far spent, top full of their beloved Liquors, they come reeling Home : After their first Sleep, the Fumes flying off which had imprison'd their Senses, they fall to retching ; then rise again when that is over, and return to *Whet*. Thus in a very little time some hundreds of brave Constitutions have been broke, and the most promising of our Citizens [at their first setting out] in a very few Years hurry'd into their Graves.

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It may be here, [and that reasonably] reply'd, that it is the Abuse only of these Remedies that does the Harm, which I can readily grant; but the Extolling of them in all cases of decay'd and lost Appetites, has first of all led many People into this Abuse: And thus I have seen abundance, some too of good Rank and Fashion, that having accustom'd themselves at first to a few Drops, quickly after rose to Spoonfuls, and at last full Glasses of these *Tinctures* and *Elixirs*, which in short time, has as effectually destroy'd them, as that Hellish Liquor the *Geneva* does the common or poor People; for 'tis not the *Bitters*, how good or useful soever, will defend the Stomach from being prey'd on by the fiery Spirits they are infus'd in; nor indeed will any the most noble Spices [which rather help farther to inflame] the richest *Cordials*, the *Citron*, and the *Cinamon* brought from abroad, have any better effect; nor in few Words, to be plain, will there appear other difference in this kind of *Suicide*, or Self-Murder, betwixt a Basket-Woman and a Lady of the first Quality, were a Jury to be impannel'd for such Enquiry, than that the former had destroy'd herself with a Spirit of Nine Pence a Quart, the latter with one of Forty Shillings.

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Again, here is a farther Mischief accrues by these *Stomach Tinctures*, that being thus [as we have already observed] celebrated for weak and decay'd Appetites, we have divers *Hectical* and *Consumptive* People, others in Fevers; Women also labouring under immoderate Fluxes of Blood; some with a hot, bilious, and acrid Serum therein, that by these Remedies suffer unspeakable Damage. Three I have lately seen, whose Ruin might have been fairly imputed to these hot and burning *Elixirs*. One bleeding to Death at Nose, had a Bottle of one of them, which seem'd a sort of *Elixir Proprietatis*, at his Beds Head, of which he had drank for a Month before in Wine, according to some Quack's Advice, and which I am satisfy'd had contributed mightily to the poor Man's Death: The contrary *Regimen* to which, I mean the *Barley-Water*, *Milk and Water*, *Asses-Milk*, or the like, had been much fitter for him, and very probably had rescued him from this fatal Symptom that put an end to his Days. But having, I say, lost his Stomach by hard Drinking, for which, especially, these kind of Remedies are extoll'd, this had been recommended as a never failing one.

Now in some of these, or other Cases circumstantiated thereunto, where they

have been found necessary or thought proper: but particularly in *Intermitting Fevers*, in *cold Habits*, in *Retching*, *Sickness* or *Loathing*, and sundry others, Physicians have always preferr'd the Infusions of some of these Bitters in fair Water, to the rectify'd Spirits or Wines either, unless in some peculiar Cases, and to much better purpose, adding, as they find occasion, three or four Ounces of a steeled Wine, or perhaps two or three of the compound Wormwood Water, to a Pint of the said Infusion; but farther to convince you of the Insufficiency of these Remedies for the Ends they have been recommended, I could give you a very late instance in a Gentleman of good Note in this City, who by too much good Fellowship, having whetted away his Stomach, fell into violent Vomitings, grew feverish and thirsty, with other Symptoms of an approaching *Consumption*, such as *Cough*, *Looseness*, and *Morning Sweats*: He had, for a Month past, drank several Bottles of the *Great Elixir*, with other famous *Bitters* or *Stomach Tinctures*, that by some of his Companions, from printed *Advertisements*, had been recommended to him, but still growing weaker, he was prevail'd on at last to take farther Advice, which he had from me, and which was

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[after taking off the Violence of his Retching with a little Juice of Lemon; Salt of Wormwood, and Syrup of Quinces, with half a Grain of Laudanum] that he should only sup a little simple Mint-Water, scalding hot, three or four times a Day, with as simple a Chicken Broth as warm, betwixt whiles, which Method, when he had strictly follow'd for about a Week, he found himself better, even beyond Expectation, and in less than a Month [by other proper Prescriptions] recover'd gradually his Appetite and Strength also. I have recited this Case, to show you, how easily Persons of Worth and good Sense too, are led into a Snare, by the specious shew and large Character of some Quack Medicine, for the best are no other, when rashly advised to a Person the Author never see in his Life, nor can be therefore appriz'd what particular Symptoms or Conditions may happen to render such Remedy much more injurious than beneficial, how valuable soever the same might have been, if the Case were differently circumstanced, or directed by the Judgment of a Physician thereinto enquiring, without which [if you dare credit one who pretends to know, at least, somewhat of the Matter] your safest way will be to meddle with none of them; or if you must be making

the Experiment, you will find any Apothecary in your Neighbourhood, will fit you with a more suitable *Stomach Bitter*, from some Physicians Prescript on his File, and at an easier Price also than you can purchase some of these destructive Spirits.

The next of the *Alterative Remedies* I shall observe, shall be those which they call their *Cordials* [whether distill'd Waters or Spirits] a pleasant Word indeed, the very Name reviving us. In this Class we are presented with *Cordials Angelical, Royal, Golden, Imperial*, and I know not how many others; besides the *Rectifiers of all our Vitals* formerly observed; together with the Spirits and Drops, as *Angel-like* also, and as *Infallible*, without Number.

Now to all these I have the same Objection as against those last mention'd, when taken thus unadvisedly: Moreover, some of them I find scented [in hopes to please the better] consequently prejudicial to a great many, and most of them prepar'd with a foul *English Spirit*, and so in like manner with the former, hurtful to all. And, indeed, tho' Custom has apply'd this Word *Cordial*, in a manner wholly to some hot and spirituous Liquors, or distill'd, if not rectify'd Spirits; yet it oftentimes falls out, that a Draught of cold
Water

Water with Vinegar, is a nobler *Cordial* in some of the Womens *Hysteric* or *Vapour* Fits, or a few Drops of Spirits of Harts-horn in a large Draught of Spring-Water, than the richest *Cordial* Spirits or distill'd Waters you can come by: Nay, in some sanguine Constitutions, these Outrages of the Spirits will be encreased frequently by these last, and the Fits much lengthen'd, which are presently taken off by the first.

But farther, this promiscuous use of *Cordials*, thus sold to you at the Shops, makes no Provision for particular Cases; for altho' the Composition were to consist of half a hundred the most precious single Ingredients, yet still the Spirit with which they are drawn off, or in which they are infused, is exceedingly pernicious to many infirm or weakly Constitutions, where the common People are ready to surmise they are most wanted. And truly, every Remedy of this kind ought to be suited to the Patient's Circumstances, as to habit of Body and other Conditions, or as the present Symptoms indicate; of which, none but the Physician, upon Sight or Enquiry into the Case, can be a proper Judge: And thus he will find the Cold and Phlegmatic can dispense with the warmer; the Hot, Dry, and Hectical will want the most temperate; and certainly these, un-

less in great languishing or loss of Spirits from their profuse Sweats, will scarce bear those of the milder sort; with which also such particular Waters, or other Ingredients, whether *Pearl, Coral, or fine Chalk* [as good as either for this Use] must always be added, as have respect unto the said feverish Ferment, and this proneness to such Sweats; and in plain Truth, generally speaking, a *Milk-water, a Snail-water, Milk and Barley-water,* or [as before observ'd] the *Asses Milk,* are the best *Restoratives* or *Cordials* for such Patients, and have recover'd great Numbers which would inevitably have been destroy'd, had they trusted to these *Angelical, Imperial, Royal, Golden Rectifiers,* or other pretended *Cordials* of like kind. However, if Matters are come to that pass, that you cannot live without a *Dram,* let the middling Folks send to any Coffee-house, and there they will find *Brandy, Rum, Rack, Usquebaugh, Ratifia, Alkermes,* or *Golden Cordial,* and such like. The Rich, at some of the same Places, may hear of *Citron and Barbadoes or Jamaica Cinnamon Waters;* whilst the poorest sort must be content with *Royal Gin,* which alike will do the same Execution: Or if you would go a little more advisedly to work, be your Circumstances what they will,

will, if either unable or unwilling to pay for better Advice, consult your Apothecary, who, as I told you but now, concerning the *Stomach Remedies*, will assist you with a *Cordial* much fitter for you, as well as in likelihood, cheaper than you purchase something in the other Way; but whether a *Disease* or a *Remedy*, is uncertain; the one happening as commonly as the other. As to the *Volatile Spirits* and *Drops*, you have little need to pay half a Crown for half an Ounce, since every Chymist will furnish you with *Volatile Oily Salt*, *Spirit of Hartshorn*, *Salt Armoniac*, *Castor*, *Lavender*, with forty others for your Fits of any kind, or other Diseases of the Brain or Nerves, at a quarter the Price; and at the same time, some of them instruct you better in their Use, and which may be most safely ventur'd on, or do you the least Injury, than the *Quack* who keeps, as we say behind the Curtain, and so as he can but get your Money by telling you some fine Story in his printed *Bills* or *Advertisements*, cares not one Half-penny whether he Kills or Cures.

To these we will joyn the *Anodyne*, *Pain-easing*, or *composing Mixtures*, called likewise *Cordials*, tho' many of them much fitter to be termed *Poysons*: in which, the prime of the Composition or Foundation
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is *Opium*, or some Preparation thereof; which, notwithstanding, granted by all Physicians to be the most serviceable Drug in Physick, prescrib'd with Judgment; yet taken thus inadvertently, and without respect to the just Symptoms and particular Circumstances calling for, or forbidding it, the most dangerous and destructive of all others, and by one *half Grain* of which, in the *solid* Form, or a few *Drops* in the *liquid*, some People have forfeited their Lives to the Ignorance of a knavish and unskilful Director thereof.

I have here a large Theme to dwell on, but an intended Brevity at first, will not allow a great many Reflections at this Time; to hasten therefore, 'tis with some of these Compositions that I have known the most ignorant *Quacks*, even an Old Woman, that have raised to themselves a wonderful Reputation; for what would not the Person in Pain give to have a little Ease? How can they do less than extol a Medicine that was the Cause of it? Hence I say, this sort of Remedy is one of the most likely, with which a Physical *Desperado* can set up; for if in great Extremity the *Empiric* steps in and *throws the Dye*, that is, pours down the Dose, admit the Chance should come up right, and the Sick recover, how is he now cry'd up as the

the most famous Doctor, thus curing as it were by Enchantment? Suppose he dies, tho' perhaps the Relations or Friends may, yet is the Patient himself secur'd from, telling Tales, or reviling him any way; besides, if it was a trading Medicine, it will be difficult to find the Author. The Shop-keeper who sold it, will only tell you, *You have made some Mistake, you gave too much, or you repeated it too soon*; and there's the utmost of your Satisfaction. And how, indeed, should it often happen otherwise, where neither the Sick nor the By-standers are Judges whether the Case requir'd it, nor the original Murtherer, having got the Money, and keeping out of sight [as some do] regarding whether it did or not. And thus I have seen within these seven Years past, at least half a Dozen of Men, Women, and Children, sent out of the World on this sleepy Errand, when *Vomits, sharp Clysters, Cupping, Blistering*, and all other helps, were either too late call'd in, or too weak to overcome the stupefactive Dose: Of these, some were the *Quack M——'s*, others *Mr. W——'s*, others *H——'s*, others *D——'s*, and others *G——y's*; the two last, among their ignorant Admirers, being reputed for the most understanding Physicians. If divers others have escaped,
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it has been rather the Effect of a strong Habit of Body, or a vigorous Constitution of Spirits, than the Medicine-Maker's Mercy : Or if others again have not presently received Injury thereby, yet being ill suited, or ill timed in some other respects, it has been accompany'd with very unhappy Consequences of a divers Nature : And how, as I said before, should it otherwise fall out, when a Remedy of this Nature is taken by one who knows nothing of such Consequence like to ensue, and deliver'd by another little or nothing wiser. For preventing then, what I can, these Mischiefs till such dangerous Medicines, especially, are withheld from you, and the Authors of them, as they ought, condignly punish'd, I will here set down some few of those particular and more obvious Cases, wherein these *Stupifying* or *Composing*, these *Anodyne* or *Pain easing*, or *Quieting Cordials*, as they are called, are absolutely hurtful, and forbidden by Physicians.

1. *Without preparing the Body, at least, when Costive, emptying the Bowels by Clysters, they are scarce ever to be given at all.* 2. *All such as are reduced by long Sickness, and brought very low, with a weak and trembling Pulse, must never meddle with them ; thus in Consumptions far advanced ; as also in*
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Dropsies they are dangerous and fatal. 3. In Malignant Fevers, also in Pleurifies, unless some urgent Symptom, as a Loosness, requires, you must avoid them; and indeed in all Fevers till the Height, which Physicians call a Crisis, is over, they are better forborn, unless indicated, as before, by the Symptoms. 4. In Childrens Fevers, or those of grown Persons; at the Instant of the coming out of the Measles or Small-pox, they are hazardous. 5. In some Inflammatory Cholicks, as I have hinted formerly, there is danger of fixing the Pain, rendring the Cause more permanent, and bringing on a Gangrene upon the Bowels thereby. 6. In Phrenzies or violent Headachs, accompany'd with a Fever, they are doubtful, and often pernicious or destructive Remedies. 7. There are some Persons, I have told you, who cannot bear them at all, but with great Detriment. 8. To Women in Labour-Pains, they are forbidden; and, indeed, in all others, if the same be tolerable, where such Pain is tending to a Crisis, and Nature overcoming the Disease is throwing the same out of the Blood, as in Abscesses, called otherwise Apostems. 9. To Virgins and Women at some certain times they are likewise mischievous and prejudicial. 10. And lastly, To instance in no more, In the Disease called an Humoral Asthma, or where there is a Catarrh, or great Defluxion of Rheum attending, especially

Specially that which is thick and troublesome to be hawk'd up; here, I say, a Dose of one of these Sleep procuring, or resting Cordials, as some name them [and for good Reason, since by the taking of them, some Persons have been so quiet as never to wake more] is, whatever you may think on't, much the same thing as tying the Sick streight about the Neck with a Halter; and several, I can assure you, I have seen upon such a like unfortunate Accident, as hard labouring for Breath when I have been sent for to them, and as black in the Face, as if in reality that Experiment, by the Hand of the publick Executioner, some private Ruffian, or themselves, [supplying that Place] had been made upon them.

By these few short Remarks, I have endeavour'd to convince you what great Hazard you run in taking these *Quack Remedies*, particularly above the rest, with which none of these Material Cautions above-mention'd are deliver'd, or indeed any other Directions, *than to take so much, and repeat it so often*, whether to your Health or Undoing is much alike to the Cheat, who has nothing more in view than to enrich himself upon your Spoils. Believe me then once more, there is nothing can require so much of your utmost Heed and diligent Regard, as the taking these, and all such like Medicines, upon a
simple

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simple *Advertisement*, without better Advice than you can gather from them, or than the base designing Authors themselves of such *Advertisements* [could you come at them] are qualify'd to give you.

Having thus run over some of the Remedies I call *Alterative* [for it was a Task I never set my self to speak of all] I shall now touch upon some of those which *Empty*; and among these, more particularly of such as work by *Stool* and *Urine*. Of the first sort, I have already acquainted you, we have *Elixirs*, *Tinctures*, *Electuaries*, but especially *Pills* in great plenty; and each so unhappily, as I may say, set out in the Catalogue of their Virtues, as being good almost for every Thing, that even some People themselves, smelling out the Design, are sometimes apt to retort the common Saying, of their being for that Reason, very probably, good for Nothing, unless, being Well, to make them Sick, or a little out of Order, to make them much Worse.

The Ground of these are usually *Jalap-Root*, *Aloes*, *Scammony*, as those of Dr. B——s, and some others; or *Coloquin-tida*, in De-laun's, called the *Scotch Pill*; *Antimony*, as in *Lockyers*; very few of them have *Rheubarb*, the safest of all others, and indeed the fittest to be this way

way intrusted; some with, others without *Mercury*; and sometimes each of these, with twenty others of the like Nature, are jumbled together injudiciously, and as indifferently corrected: Witness the horrid Gripes and Tortures, the over-purging, or the not passing at all, that have very often attended. Of the *Liquors*, one of the safest, and now generally known, has *Sena* for its Basis, corrected with *Seeds*, *Licorish* and *Raisons*, however, infused, like the rest, in none of the most wholesome Spirits, I mean *Daffy's Elixir Salutis*.

But admit we should grant all these very good and proper in their Kinds, yet is it surely the highest Folly and Rashness we can be guilty of, to meddle with any of them upon these Peoples Recommendation; who, tho' they know [and as I have intimated already, so does the poor Patient often to his Sorrow] that they will Purge those who take them, yet when *Purging is necessary*, they know not; nor yet what particular Purge will best suit the sick Persons Case, the Habit of Body, and divers other Circumstances, which ought to be known and duly weighed before such Medicines are prescrib'd; and for want of which, many troubled with the Piles, and other Disorders contra-indicating such particular Purges, have been thereby almost destroy'd. How many

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many poor Women under Weaknesses of another kind, have been as nearly ruined by the like ill suited and ill timed Purgés? How many over-purgéd? How many torn to pieces with violent Cholicks, or kill'd outright with Bloody Fluxes thereby occasion'd? How many have had their Blood and Humours as it were set on Fire, by some of these devilish [for I can call them no better] Compositions? How many Hectic and other Fevers thereby kindled; with a sad Train of other Consequences, in the end fatal, as I formerly observ'd to you, I had sometimes known? And, therefore it is the standing and well-establish'd Maxim among the wisest of the Faculty, never to prescribe a purging Medicine, without enquiry into the Patient's Circumstances, not only whither for a Man, a Woman, or a Child, but what sort of Man; what Habit of Body; how used to purging Remedies, and how the same have formerly work'd upon him; since 'tis plain, that a seemingly strong Man is often moved with a much less Dose, and may happen therefore to require a differing Medicine also from another seemingly weaker, who can yet bear the stronger Remedy. Nor is the Difficulty at all lessen'd by saying, the harder to work on may take more, the weaker less, of the same purging Medicine, be their Habits or other Circumstances as they

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they will: For if you go this way to work, you may sooner Destroy some People than Purge them at all; there being some Bodies so constituted, as that *Cassa* [as it is called] *Lenitive Electuary*, a Bit of fresh Butter, three or four Spoonfuls of sweet Oyl, the common purging Mineral Waters, or such like cooling and mollifying Medicines, will give several Stools, when the strongest of the other Purgatives shall scarce stir them; and thus, altho' with some of the Cold and Phlegmatic, we go as high as *Scammony* and *Colocynth*, yet must we not exceed *Sena* or *Rhubarb*, with some others that are Hot and Dry; the want of which Pre-consideration, has render'd these publick Remedies, not only uncertain but unsafe also. One Person takes them, they scour him lustily; he fancies therefore they have done him good, and so commends them to his Friend: He tries the Experiment, and they neither work at all, only make him desperately Sick, Vomit, Gripe him, and throw him almost into Convulsions, and perhaps it is some Days [Nature at length surmounting the Difficulty] before he gets over it and recovers; when sometimes the Purge is curd; others [for you unhappily mistaken are the greater Number, that] to excuse the *Quack*, and the churlish

churlish Operation of his Medicine, they will take the Blame upon themselves; it was only the foulness of their Stomachs; their Guts had not been clean'd for long time past, so that much Filth being now heap'd up, less wonder that the Medicine met with so much difficulty to remove the Obstructions, or unstop the Dam; but having now at last made way, the next Dose is to accomplish the Work with much more Ease. [How easily are some People cheated of their Health, if not of Life it self?] The second Dose is ventur'd on perhaps, and with no better Success; when now upon this double Tryal, the rest, very probably, [if there were any left] are thrown out of Doors; and what cares the *Quack* for that; you cannot spread his Dishonour far; or should you cry them down, another who escaped better shall commend them, and send more Fools to Market, especially if it be the Spring or Autumn, for then some People readily entertain a Notion [strengthen'd by the *Empirics* Invitation thereunto] that they must Purge right or wrong, for fear they should be Sick. But I have already enlarged farther upon this Point than I intended, that I might the better convince you, no Purging Remedy [how highly soever extoll'd by the *Quack* Author for its rare Virtues, or how infallible soever

for any one, or all Distempers] can, after this manner be taken with Safety ; since some Bodies, we have formerly observed, will scarce bear any, even the mildest Purge at all, as *Hysterical Women, Weak and Consumptive Persons, at all times, and upon all occasions, subject to Fluxes* ; and many such I have known, whose Deaths have been much hasten'd meerly thereby. Others require always somewhat peculiar in a Purge, as *Cassia, Manna, Tamarinds, Myrobalans*, but especially *Rhubarb* [tho' not Electively, yet by the Texture of Parts thereto adapted] for the *Choleric*. *Agaric, Turbith, Hermodacts, Carthamus Seeds, &c.* for the *Phlegmatic*. *Sena, Poly-pody, Epithimum, Ellebore* [but with good Advice and Caution this last] for *Melancholy*. *Jalap, Elder-Bark, Flower-de-luce, Gamboge, Elaterium* [these two last, especially the last of them, with the highest Prudence and Circumspection also] for *Watry Humours*.

These, indeed, may be thought much out of the way of common Readers, as being hard Names, and with which it may be supposed they can be little acquainted ; and I have instanced them, only to show the Necessity that there is of prescribing Purges, where such are necessary [and that I can assure you is not so often

often as these *Pill* and *Elixir* Merchants, for their own Ends would perswade you] out of divers simple Ingredients, best suited to particular Humours, Habits and Diseases, with their sundry Symptoms, which these dextrous People will tell you they have contrived for you, and lodged in the same *Pill*; and if you resolve thus to be impos'd on, it will be no Fault of mine, who am endeavouring to convince you of so gross and dangerous an Error you may be led into by designing *Empirics*: But if, notwithstanding all I can say, you resolve to run thus inadvertently upon such Remedies, you may for Six-pence, nay, I know for Three-pence [the poorest of you] have a better and much safer purging *Pill*, at any one of your Neighbour Apothecaries, than you must perhaps give a Shilling or Eighteen-pence for, to some of these vile ignorant People.

Before I quit this Head of *Purging Remedies*, I may well, I think, subjoin a few Words relating to the purging *Powders*, *Lozenges*, and *Sugar Plumb*, particularly sold for the Worms; which Name, as I said of the *Scorvy*, is now in like manner become a Subterfuge of Ignorance for every less apparent Distemper, or the more hidden Symptoms of the Diseases, especially of Children, and some grown

Persons; of which, rather than assign no Cause at all, we presently say, the *great People* have got the *Scorvy*; and the *little Ones* the *Worms*, and accordingly set upon the Encounter, either by *Spirits of Scorvy-grass* or *Worm-powder* Purges; and undoubtedly, many under this dangerous Mistake of both sorts, are lamentably harra's'd, also Scores of little Infants yearly destroy'd, by the very Remedies the unhappy Parents were prevail'd on to administer, in order to destroy these suppos'd *Worms*. 'Tis chiefly for these poor Infants and young Children, these *Comfits* or *Confects* have been prepar'd, which under a sweet Cover, contain frequently a conceal'd Poison; and instead of being a *Bait* for the *Vermine*, they sometimes have proved the Child's *Bane*. 'Tis not that I think the *Mercury* sometimes put in, as such directly, which [notwithstanding the Quack M——r's Remarks] is by the ablest Physicians daily order'd, and allow'd to be the most noble of all others, provided the same is *rightly prepared, duly dosed, cautiously prescribed, and overlook'd in its Operation, to obviate some Accidents that may happen to arise*; 'tis not, I say, for that in it self the Medicine is improper, but when taken, as they say, *Hand over Head*, or rashly upon every

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every simple Persons Advice, being mix'd up, as it is usually, with the *Resine* of *Jalap* or *Scammony* [two brisk Purgatives so called] and no Cautions or proper Directions, as ought to be therewith given, it is utterly to be rejected; as are most, if not every one, of these Compositions: For admit you go upon a wrong Supposition, you certainly encrease the *Hectic Fever*, the *Cough*, *Cholick*, or *Belly-ach*, the *Loosness*, *Sweats*, and all the Tribe of threatening Symptoms of perhaps an already far advanc'd *Consumption*; and throw your Child very probably into those very *Convulsions* you were hoping to prevent or cure.

'Tis not, I say, sufficient, because your Neighbour tells you *her Child was just like yours*, *his Nose itch'd*, or *he rubb'd his B—h*, and *she gave him some of Mr. M—r's Powder*, which brought away a *Worm*, and the Child grew well; or for that another's *Breath smelt strong like yours*; *his Belly ach'd*, and he was thus recover'd: A third *grated his Teeth exactly like your Child*; he *started in his Sleep*; *slept with the White of his Eyes discover'd or half open*; *lay stupid*; *was sometimes Bound, at others Loose*, and had the like Success upon taking the purging *Sugar Plumbs*; for altho' these and some others are common Symptoms of the Distemper

we now speak of, yet may they also attend upon others, as they do particularly some of them, upon *Fewers* preceeding those two very common ones, the *Measles* and *Small-pox*; and if, whilst Nature is preparing these for breaking forth, you should be forcing down the fatal Dose [as it has happen'd at some times] what unspeakable Concern must it be to a tender Parent to have been thus accessory to a Child's Death, I will leave such Parent to consider,

Let not then, I say, the long Catalogue of Cures in an half Sheet Advertisement, any longer amuse you; for it is, I have told you, the Custom of these cheating *Empirics* and knavish *Quacks*, to furnish you with these kind of Registers, the easier to deceive you; and if *One* only out of a Score have chanced to receive Benefit [and I may well justify the Word, the odds being much larger against you] you hear not a Word of the *Nineteen*, who either received none at all, if they were not injur'd; but that *One* shall furnish a Tale for them to tell a quarter of a Year after; and I know they have been so diligent to get Intelligence of the Success, that there are Persons employ'd by them for that purpose; tho' I deny not but such an acceptable piece of News may be

be sent them, for Joy that the poor Child was thus [as they call it] miraculously deliver'd of a large Worm, of such or such a Size, to be sure always the largest, tho' that is little material. This strait alarms the whole Neighbourhood, and every sick Child in the Parish [some, tho' never so well by way of Prevention] is deem'd immediately full of Worms, when away presently to Powders, Lozenges, or Sugar-Plumbs.

Upon such a simple Hint as this, a worthy Citizen was insnar'd to give four of his Children some of these *Worm Medicines*; in the Operation whereof, one of them having voided a Worm, the rest [who were well before] were forced to go to Pot, but with no better Event, than that the youngest dy'd in the working of the Medicine repeated the second Day [because the *Worms* it seems would not appear upon the first Summons] two others, being formed of better Clay, escaped; and as if the Devil had ow'd the Comfit-maker a Shame, the Scout returning Home in a sort of Triumph, with the great Success of the first Operation, minuting down the Size of the Worm, and other Circumstances, to dress up a Relation; and coming again some Days after to hear more good News, upon enter-

entering the Threshold of the Door, and finding the Family all in Tears, went away, as the People say, presently, like a Dog that had burnt his Tail. In few Words, Can you believe it any thing wonderful, that forty or fifty of these successful Cases should be muster'd up to serve a Turn, when more than one thousand, I may say truly two or three, have taken the same Medicines, some to very little Advantage, others to none, and the larger Number to their great Detriment or Hurt? And certainly were every *Physician, Surgeon, or Apothecary*, to give out *printed Lists* of those who have recover'd of sundry Distempers, even this in particular, under their Hands, you may assure your selves, there is not one that has much Business, but might inform you after the same way, of twenty to one that these sorry People are able to produce; and what they do, 'tis plain, must be at a hazard, for 'tis rare they ever see the Patient, or enquire into any Circumstances, that might forbid, as well as encourage the giving such Remedies; or if they did, would it [through their Ignorance of the same] fare better with them, but send your Money and the Medicine is deliver'd right or wrong; if it cures, it will be cry'd up; if otherwise, you are to blame

blame your own Credulity, and there ends the Dispute. I cannot better shut up this Paragraph, than I did one of the last ; that if you will take these sorts of Medicines rashly, of your own, or without better Advice, there are other, and much better Apothecaries than Mr. M—r [of late called it seems Dr. M—r] who can furnish you either with these purging *Lozenges* or *Powders*, which were stolen at first from a Dispensatory ; or even the said M——r's *black Powder* also, upon easier Terms than he will part with it, and with this farther Advantage, that if any Accident should happen, the former will not disdain to call in better Advice, while the *Quack* will sooner let you die [if it were in his Power to prevent] than to suffer a Physician to come to your Assistance, for fear his Roguery being detected, he should be called to account for the same.

The next, and last kind of Medicines of this sort, of which I shall take a view, are those that evacuate or *empty* by *Urine* ; and these commonly are intended for the *Gravel* and *Stone* ; in speaking to which Distemper, I said, I think, so much as might convince any reasonable Person, that most of them are extremely hazardous, and all of them in general unfit to be

be taken from the Hand of a *Quack*, or indeed any other than the learned Physician, *seeing the Sick upon the Spot, and examining the Case, how circumstanc'd in every Respect, what particular kind of Remedies his present Complaint requires*; for he that does otherwise, or is drawn in like the rest, by Histories of Recoveries, great Stones voided upon the Use of such or such famous *Quack Remedies and Specificks*, fences quite in the Dark, or in another as common a Phrase, tosses up like the Boys, *Heads or Tails*, whether he shall be kill'd or cur'd; for I can make it appear at any time, that for one having the good hap to be reliev'd, ten, who have fallen under my own Observation, have been endanger'd, and two of them, I might say, directly murder'd. But I proceed:

Among the Chief of these Remedies, is the famous *Tipping's Liquor* [he too, forsooth, I should have called Doctor] distill'd from some of the common Plants, called by Physicians *Diuretics*, that is, *such as are remark'd for their singular Property in causing us to make Water*. A Remedy, of which I can only say thus much in its behalf, that I believe it to have done as little hurt to the Body, and as much to the Pocket, as most that have been this way vended; and I think has less to recommend

mend it so universally, for that the late Disposers thereof have been meer Tradesmen, pretending [and in that respect I confess so much the Honefter] to know nothing of the Matter, farther than that by a sort of Tradition it was handed to, or bequeathed them as a Legacy [and a good one too it has been if I am rightly inform'd] and farther, that the first Proprietor had observ'd it to do great Service in Cases of the *Stone* and *Gravel*; notwithstanding which, if a List had been taken of all who have try'd it [I infer only from my own Knowledge of it] if five out of five and twenty have been any ways helped, it would be the highest Number would arise upon the Calculation.

Rogers his *Powder* is another of them, and a suitable Medicine too at some times, or duly administer'd, that is, when a proper Judge is by to give the Direction, I mean the learned Physician, who knows of twenty better than either of these two, whose Compositions you may find in Dr. *Groenvelt* [*one of the best Judges of this Subject we ever had in England*] his compleat Treatise of the *Stone* and *Gravel*, and see how dearly [considering prime Cost] you pay for these Remedies, which much oftner injure than any way help you,

you, unless off with your Money. From thence also you would clearly see, were you vers'd in Physick, that neither one nor t' other can answer all the Intentions requir'd, to assist a Person labouring under this cruel Distemper. If the Proprietors shall tell us these Receipts are not genuine, I will not dispute it with them, being certain there are those in Company with them, that every jot will serve as well, and with whose Assistance [if you can believe there is nothing farther requisite thereto than to know what will make a Man piss] you may set up for as famous a *Stone-breaker* as any of them all.

There are abundance more of these Remedies both *Altering* and *Purging*, some of which I find have been borrow'd from the *Dispensatory* of Dr. Bates, such as the *Lozenges for the Piles*, called *Trochisci Hæmorrhoidales*, but by their first Author, *Tabula Divina*; the *Heart-burn Lozenges*, named *Tabula Cordialgica*; the *Worm Confects*; or *Tabula Infantium*, and the *Tabula Vermifuga*; the *Ague Stomach Plaster*, or *Emplastrum Febrifugum Magnum*, which the Romancing Translator of that Book tells you in a hundred Examples, it has not failed once, tho' I my self who have prescrib'd it about as many times, cannot say it has answer'd in little more than a tenth

tenth part; but it is natural to a Quack to set forth any Remedy a twentieth beyond its Merits, by which the Reader of such Treatises is often misguided, and drawn into an Error, sometimes of dangerous Consequence.

These, with others I could mention, disguis'd under borrow'd Names, have been [as I said just now] stolen out of a Dispensatory; and for which, some of these ignorant Pretenders setting up for Doctors, are much beholden to William Salmon, Ring-leader, or King of the Quacks, who by profaning, as it were, this most excellent Science, so far as lay in his Power, was for teaching every one to turn Empiric, at least to be his own Physician; with what Success the many fatal Miscarriages by means of one Drug taken for another [four stout young Fellows in one Day thus lately destroy'd] the many Scores who have lost their Lives by Mistakes of another sort, that is, taking one Distemper for another; the many hundreds, more especially of the young ones, carry'd off in the Measles and Small-pox by their skilful Nurses [as they are called] Sack and Saffron, with their Treacle, but rather treacherous and plaguing Waters, together with the Worm Medicines; the thousands of old ones in common Fevers, as much butcher'd by the large Doses of Venice

*nice Treadle and Mithridate, Snake-root and Brandy, or the like, given indiscreetly right or wrong to make them Sweat; and the ten thousands of all sorts, under the Notion of Restoratives or rich Cordials [barbarously so denominated] dry'd up with Heeticks, or else drown'd with Dropsies. These, I say, with divers others, do sufficiently inform us, what have been the dire Effects of teaching ignorant, but bold Men, to be tampering out of their Sphere, or meddling with Medicines, and of instructing the good Women to distil Strong-waters. Happy, doubtless, had it been for hundreds of great and good Families in this Kingdom, if neither the Man nor Woman therein, had dipp'd into an Affair of this weighty Consequence, but continu'd in their safer Ignorance of these Matters; and happier still, had they not been seduced or drawn away by the fair Promises of some villainous Pretender to this Knowledge: Than which, indeed, it might be allow'd nothing was easier to be attain'd, if nothing were required thereto but knowing what would move by *Vomit*, purge by *Stool*, force *Urine*, or make us *Sweat*; or, on the contrary, what will stop or restrain these several Evacuations. If Physick terminated here, What need of turning over large Volumes? Of attending*

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ing upon Dissections? Of torturing or racking our Brains about Physical Disquisitions? Since one Hour's converse with Culpeper, or his Brother Salmon, would sufficiently instruct us in those Matters. But doubtless, many of you, however foreign the Subject is to your common Study and Conversation, will not, after what has been already said thereon, need Arguments to convince you, that to know *when these several Intentions of evacuating or emptying either way, must be answer'd, when suffer'd at all, how far to run on, and when to be taken up, so as may best conduce to the Sick Man's Profit, and re-establish lost or impaired Health,* are still greater and farther Requisites to this difficult Profession; and that this Knowledge is not to be obtain'd but by great Learning, profound Meditation, diligent Study, constant Enquiries into the secret Recesses of Nature, a thorough Knowledge of the Parts [even the minutest] of our Bodies, as well in their States of Sicknefs as of Health; without which, the latter can be but lamely set to rights; lastly, multiply'd Experience, and faithful Registers of Practice, are absolutely necessary to a Physician; whilst as profound an Ignorance of all these, provided there be a large Stock of Assurance, called otherwise *undaunted*

daunted Impudence, is all that is necessary to the Sellers of these Remedies, or to set up a Quack.



T H E SUPPLEMENT.

CONTAINING,

A Display of the present Set of Pretenders to Clap-curing, giving Judgment upon Urine, &c. with their Frauds and Abuses: Rules also to know, and Cautions against them.

Among many others, I think scarce any Disease has given greater Encouragement to Quacks and Empirics, than this called the *French-Pox*; which detested and loathsome Distemper has this Peculiar [as if Heaven, to show a more than common Displeasure thereat, had so appointed it] that even in this Life the sick Person should be doubly punish'd, first of all with his Disease, and after by the ignorant and knavish Management of some

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some *Quacking Pretender* to the Cure thereof.

What has chiefly given Opportunity to these People, I mean the said Pretenders, has been the Disgrace and Infamy, with which [not without Reason] the modest and sober Part of the World have entertain'd it : And hence the poor Sinner takes *Sanctuary* any where rather than among his Friends and Acquaintance ; and being told by one of *Satan's* Emissaries, these Sons of *Belial*, in a Bill deliver'd him as he walks the Streets ; or perhaps looking up at some of their *Letters Patents* stuck upon a Post where he is making Water, that at such a Place, the *Golden Head or Ball, a Light at the Door in the Even, and good Shelter to bolt in, or some Back-door into such an Alley, left open for that purpose ;* that here, I say, with a three half Crown Bolus, two or three of them at most ; a half Crown Box of Pills, or a five Shilling Pot of *Electuary* up one Pair of Stairs, &c. or if they are minded to go higher [for there are *Medicines* of all Prices as well as *Mistresses*] one Guinea for a *Specifick Gally-* not, with another for a little Bottle of three or four Spoonfuls of *Hodge-podge*, they may presently be put in order : By these Means, I say, the poor unfortunate Patient is destroy'd, and being once enter'd [especially

with some of them] must not only content himself to accept oftentimes of a *Pox* in the room of his *Clap*, but at some times also, that he may purchase his Liberty to apply somewhere else, must compound upon what Terms the Undertaker pleases; at the best, when his Pocket has been drain'd perhaps of *fifty* instead of *one* half Crown, of *threescore* for *three*, or of four or five Guineas in the place of one [for here, tho' they begin high, they have sooner done, the *Quack* playing at Hide and Seek, and not daring to own himself] they may, I say, [and glad they come off so] withdraw in much worse, at best in the same Plight they came. And thus I have known some of these miserable Patients run up and down the Town, from one *Quack* to another, in hopes of finding more Skill and Honesty, till they have been half ruined, some of them quite undone; and had not some charitable Physician, or compassionate Surgeon stept in, an Hospital must have been their last Refuge; where, tho' very many are yearly recover'd, yet do great Numbers perish under this Distemper, now grown too powerful for Art, and fall as Victims to the Ignorance, first of all, of some Empirical Pretender.

You will say probably, *that some of these People who put out Bills, and print Advertisements, must surely be able Men, for that they publish Books concerning the Distemper, and apply solely or chiefly to the Study thereof*: I grant they do indeed put up for Authors, and set forth Books, but were your selves Judges of the Subject they debate, you would need no greater Evidence of their Ignorance, as well as evil Design; for tho' they have some tolerable good Books to Steal from or Plunder, yet so wretchedly unskill'd are they in both Terms of Art and Method, that they have only jumbled up a heap of incoherent Matter, interlarded with false Latin, flat Nonsense, or Sense insipid, which is only fit to amuse poor ignorant People, who are ready to take for granted, that he who can write a Book, must, as the Objection implies, be some great Scholar; and having touched upon this Subject of Book-writing, so ingenious in their Confessions have some of them been in this Point, that being ask'd the Question by some of their particular Acquaintance of more Knowledge, How they could publish such Impertinencies to the learned World! they have answer'd with their Predecessor *Saffold*, *They writ only to amuse the unlearned*; if Scholars laugh'd they va-

lued not, there being Fools enough to serve their Ends therein. And indeed to be plain, they have never printed any thing upon this Topick, unless foolish Descriptions of the Distemper in general, and as ridiculous Notes [the greatest part] by which you are to know your selves infected; such as when you have a Heat or Pricking of your Urine, with a Running of some Matter from your private Parts, or Sores about the same, after you have been deserving for it, it is a shroud sign you have got the Disease, which the most Ignorant can now tell as well as themselves, and amounts to no more, than that when you are Clapt, you are Clapt. To these are added, some which have no more Relation to this, than to some other Distempers; but truly their main Design is not only to make it appear you are Clapt, but if you ever were so, and have been however well cur'd, that you now are Poxt, as the Author of the *Syphilis* [I don't mean the *Modern one*, for that's as much a Trick upon you as the rest] has well observ'd; and now it shall escape them hard, if taking Advantage of your Weakness, or your own natural Fear and Jealousy, they Dose you not again; nay well for you, if you can avoid one of their Salvations, by which, were you to know

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how many unhappy Creatures [kill'd under this Course through meer Unskilfulness,] were carry'd out of their Houses at Midnight, [some, their Friends not knowing at the same time what was become of them] into a Church-yard which tells no Tales, it would make you much more shy of coming under these Peoples Roofs, than at Noon-day you were of sneaking into the *Brothel*, where the first *Scene* was laid for the ensuing *Tragedy*.

In short, there are none of these Books have other Meaning than one of their *Bills* deliver'd about the Streets ; for you may find, as they are continually dispersing one, so are they, in some *News-Paper*, as constantly Advertising the other, [for few People would come to these prick'd and vappid Wines, if a *new Busb* were not constantly to be hung out] and the Advertising of these Books, is much more expensive to them than the whole Impression was at first, which, without this way of Trumpeting to gather a Crowd and get them off, must either be sold to the Chandlers Shops at two Pence *per* Pound, or lie upon their Hands. The true Design, as I have told you, is only to promote the Sale of their *Quack Remedies*, which you are therein acquainted they have to dispose of ; and altho' one of their Chiefs

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has lately told you in a doughty Performance of this kind, that he *publisheth the same for the Common Good, as he Prints his Bills to prevent your being imposed on by Pretenders* [of which Number he himself is one]; or as another tells you in his, *the Story of the wonderful Virtues of his Bolus, may sound like a Quack Romance* [as in Truth it is]; nevertheless, I say, there is no one [unless they be Fools or Children] but may easily see they mean the direct contrary, or instead of the *Publick Good*, their own *Private Interest*: And truly what better is it that you can expect from such People, not one of which was ever bred up either to *Physic* or *Chirurgery*, but were originally *Weavers, Taylors, Merry Andrews* or *Jack Puddings* to some *Mountebank* of the like or the same Extraction. The Rise of the present Set [*when R——s, they say, fall out, Truth comes to Light*] we have from one of their own Gang; thus one of them has told us in Print also, *That Spink, who had got an M. D. in the Title Page of his Pamphlets, and had Impudence enough to dedicate the last he writ to the Company of Surgeons, was a Taylor; that the famous Dr. Rivers [as he styles himself] was a Foot-boy, and used to deliver out his Master Camm's Quack Bills: Camm himself tells us, He knows more than all of them,*
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for that he liv'd a Year or two with a Country Apothecary; and having learnt to wipe the Counter on a Market Day against the Customers came in, as well as the Pots and Glasses, by a sort of Inspiration, he was gifted with the Knowledge of the Virtues of their Contents; and for some Reason or other [best known to himself] being tir'd with the Servitude, he strols to London [the best Quack-Market in the Kingdom] falls to conning of his Books, where he presently found *Mercurius Dulcis*, mix'd up with any Purg-ing Pill, would cleanse off the Matter of a Clap; that Salt Peter would remove the Heat of Urine, and Turpentine heal up the Breach. With this small stock of Understanding, but much greater of what the World calls *Cunning*, he opens Shop, that is, falls to publishing Quack Bills; and now at last he says he has procur'd [that is for his Money purchas'd] an *University or College Cap*, tho' in likelihood it is no better, if it be other, than a *Scotch Pedler's Bonnet*. The third of them, I mean the noted Dr. Wright [I have been told by one who had it from his Fellow Clerk] was put out to a Scrivener, so that his Knowledge also in this part of Medicine, came by Infusion; and, indeed, if all be true he says, he has perform'd greater Wonders

ders with his *Medicaments* than all the rest ; for he tells us, *they will discharge the Pox Urinally, i. e. by the way, or under the shape of a Urinal, or in plainer Terms, that they will make you piss Urinals*, for this surely is the true Construction of this learned Doctor's Phrase ; being a concise Man, he was unwilling to add another Syllable for fear of spoiling the sound of the Word. But leaving the Education of some, I will now let you into the villainous Practices of others of them, by which you may be inform'd, they have more ways to get Money than by selling of a Box of Pills ; which is by means of their *Setting Dog*, or Servant so call'd. Thus if they see a Person in good Habit, one of these who is placed for that purpose hard by, in the Close of the Evening [the usual Time of Business] watches his coming out, dogs him Home, and brings back Intelligence, who, or what he is ; of which Knowledge the *Quack* is now to make his Advantage ; for some Days after, as if passing accidentally by, he looks into the Shop, if a Tradesman, and seeing the Master behind the Counter, or perhaps at his Door, he makes a Nod and so goes on ; or if a private House, the next time he comes, he gives him to understand, *that the Day before, his Business calling*

ling him to such a Place, he durst have sworn he see him go into such a House; but no matter, for he was always tender of a Gentleman's Reputation. By this the poor Gentleman finding himself discover'd, must now buy his Peace as well as he can; that is, he must either take more Doses to as little purpose as before, for which he paid his Money as he had them; or the Quack telling him *his Case is uncommon, a Pox of the worst sort, and he must be Salivated*: In order to which he offers him the best Chamber and Bed in his House, provides every thing for him, telling him farther, *that now knowing him to be an honest Gentleman, and a Man of Worth, he will have nothing more of him till he is well*. Under this Dilemma, the unhappy Patient must comply, or if he leaves him, compound for Secrecy, and lie at a Knave's Mercy.

To confirm this, I shall make a short Recital of a Case I had from the Gentleman's Mouth who was concern'd. A Person of good Substance and Figure also in his own Country, coming up to London upon some Suit in Law, *in seeking for Pleasure* [give me leave for once to quote one of the Quack Bills] *met with a Clap*, and one of the like Bills being a few Days after put into his Hands, as he was a Stranger to the Town, and taking all for Gospel

Gospel he read in Print, especially finding the Doctor was one of our before-mentioned *Licensed Physicians*, he trudges away in the Evening, and by the help of the Light in the Lanthorn over the Door, presently gets under Covert in the Passage, knocks at the inward one, when being admitted, the Servant rings a Bell, and down comes the D——l of a Doctor, in his Velvet Cap, Silk Gown and Slippers, where the Bargain was quickly struck; instead of an eighteen Penny Box of *Pills*, five Guineas were paid down, and [it being found in the usual Cant, a hot and fiery, or dry corroding Pox, at the first of the Infection] upon Dismission five more; for which, this modest Undertaker, seeing him appear like an honest Gentleman, would credit him upon Honour: But to go on with our Story; when he had purg'd him pretty well, a Swelling fell down upon his private Parts, at which, the Patient [as also the Doctor] was alarm'd, not knowing, doubtless, what Method to take with it; however, he gives him some Ointment, and goes to work with his *Turpentine Pills*, as the Gentleman by their Smell apprehended them to be, and as they after appear'd to a better Judge: The Swelling still encreasing, and the poor Man in great Misery, he acquaints his

his

his Landlord, the Inn-keeper, with his Misfortune, and was by him perswaded to send away presently for a reputable Surgeon in the Neighbourhood, who in few Days unstopp'd the Dam, that is, removed the Obstruction of, and finish'd his Cure. The Patient having conceal'd, as he thought, both who he was, as well as where he lodg'd, took no farther Notice of his *Quack Doctor*, thinking the five Guineas he had already paid him sufficient for the Work done, especially so incompleat; but a *Setting Dog* long before had brought Intelligence of his Name and Place of Residence, as well here in Town as in the Country; and he was no sooner got Home, but a Letter came after him to demand the other five Guineas, or that he must expect by the next to hear farther. Upon which, the Gentleman, for fear his Repute might suffer by such a Story taking Air, writes immediately to his Host in Town, and orders him, for Peace sake, to go and pay the five Guineas, and take a Receipt for the same as he should think fit, which was accordingly done; and Matters lay now quiet for about three Months, when a second Letter was sent down to let him know, that being in great want of Money, he was obliged to send him Word, that there were

were still twenty Guineas due to him, and which he expected in a few Days, or else he might see cause to repent perhaps that he had not complied with the Contents. Hereupon the frighten'd Gentleman rides Post to *London*, and in Company with his Landlord [having the Receipt with him] hastens to the *Quack's* House, expostulates the Case, shows the Receipt, and desires to know what he meant. The other tells him, *he should not make many Words, for that would be to little Purpose; it was true, he had received the ten Guineas as were contracted for first of all, but he must have twenty more for keeping Council, or else both Town and Country should know he had been a Whoring, as they would if he pretended to stand Tryal.* Here, in short, was the Conclusion, either to prepare for putting in Bail, or to pay the Money, and take a Penal Bond of what Forfeiture he pleased, if any farther Trouble was given upon this Account, for which the next Day was allow'd to consider. His Landlord advis'd him by all means to stand the Risque, offering readily to be his Bail, and told him he was sure the Rogue would be Hang'd, before he would go forward with a Suit, in which he must appear so notorious a Villain. But the Country Gentleman was taint hearted, and [as he told

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told me after] would sooner have paid five hundred than have appear'd in Court, or had his Name to have been only mention'd upon this Score ; and so for his own Ease, through this foolish Timorousness, the Matter was compremis'd, as it were next Day betwixt themselves, the Inn-keeper knowing nothing of the Matter, and he thought he came off tolerably well, considering what Hands he was got into, by the Abatement of five Guineas ; so here were twenty five Guineas, of which fifteen were paid for *Secrecy*, and ten for a pretended Cure. The same Fellow [as I heard it whisper'd some years ago] demanded one hundred Pound for keeping Council [call'd *Hush-Money*] of a wealthy Citizen he had first Dog'd or Set, to know who he was ; upon which a Suit of Law commenc'd, but was stifled, as the other, before the Tryal came on, by a Composition ; the Defendant being partly fearful of being expos'd, and assur'd that the Plaintiff was already a Prisoner ; so that by suing this Beggar after for Cost and Damage, he should only meet with a Beggar's Portion, and be made a Town Talk into the Bargain.

These, I can assure our Reader, are Matters of Fact ; and tho' I cannot say all of them are arriv'd to this Height of Villainy ;

lainy ; I will say this, and justify it too, that the most knowing of them are not able to do you half the Service [notwithstanding the ten, fifteen, twenty, or thirty Years Experience they daily boast of] as one of the meanest Surgeons about the Town, I might say an Apprentice of three Years standing, whose Master is conversant in that way of Business, and with whom also you are much safer as to Reputation, and keeping of your Council [as they call it] those great Motives to your engaging first of all among these Back-door People, with their Lamps and Lanthorns, some of them very dark ones too, but therein suited to their dark Designs.

As to an Objection that may be raised, that if some of these People did not answer the Patient's Expectation, or were not cured by them, their Trade must soon be at an end, and no Body would come near them? This, I say, is easily remov'd, by what many of them, over their Liquor have acknowledg'd, *viz.* that they never expect the same Person, in the common way of asking for a Box of Pills, a Pot of *Electuary*, or a *Bolus*, to come twice ; if they will be so civil, they are welcome, but unexpected ; there are new Faces enough to supply the old ones

Places,

Places, who, as I have told you, run from one of these Folks to another, till they have not one Penny left in their Pockets; when at length having no Friends neither to assist them, St. Bartholomew and St. Thomas are the Patron Saints they pray unto for Relief; and if such Prayers are heard, I would say, are regarded, they are some of them sent thence to *King'sland*, others to the *Lock* in *Southwark*. But yet admitting some have the good, I might say rather the bad Hap, to remove your present Complaint, yet it is generally by the way of Exchange, stopping your Running at any Rate, as some Books they have direct them, and damming up the Poison: when, if after you complain, they tell you that you are cur'd, but you have now either the *Scorbatic Itch* [if you are broke out] or the *Rheumatism* [if pain'd in your Limbs] when still if you go from them to others of their Brethren in Iniquity, were it really no other, you are now told you have a thorough Pox; however, altho' you are truly in bad Condition, if you can spare three half Crowns, you may have a Bolus will drive it out of your Flesh, nay your Bones themselves, back again [whence it came last] into your Blood; raise him but three more, the second shall whisk it all thence into the Skin; and being come thus

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far,

far, methinks 'tis great pity [tho' you borrow the Money of three several Friends] you should not carry this honest Man the three last, *that scours your Hide of all the Pocky Filth, and is to make you cleaner [at least in your Pocket] than a Penny.*

It would be too tedious, should I pretend to acquaint you with all the Wiles and Stratagems, made use of by these scandalous and most ignorant People, to beguile you of your Money, and if that were the worst, among the Wealthier sort, the Abuse might be the easier put up; but here lies your Misfortune, in that having a false Ground Work laid among them for Cure, whilst you are over-purg'd by some, not sufficiently by others, and with some ill suited Purgatives by all, at least such as are less fit for your particular Case in some respect or other, the Distemper insinuates farther; and then you must after undergo a harder Penance, perhaps to the utmost Prejudice of your Affairs in the World, being now strictly kept up to clear you of some *inveterate Ulcers, sinking Noses, lost Palates, rotten Skulls and Shin-bones, pocky Consumptions, with other the lamentable Offspring of this cruel Distemper, first of all ill treated by these designing Men.*

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Let me but appeal to your own Reason; how can you think it possible, a poor *Sorry Taylor*, a *Rascally pretending Fortune-teller or knavish Astrologer*, an ignorant *Foot-man*, a mad *runnagade Scrivener*, a poor *Country Apothecaries Boy* [however now enrich'd by your Spoils] should be more able to help you, than the great Number of learned, experienc'd, judicious and honest *Physicians and Surgeons* with which this City does every where abound; to whom you may apply, and with whom you have no need to fear these Impositions upon you, and taking all together, for much less Expence you are often at [thus running from one *Quack* to another, under this cover of Secrecy being more expos'd] you might have a well-grounded, and consequently a sound Cure; and 'tis indeed to these you must have recourse very frequently at long run, when the former have done all they can [under pretence of Cure] to spoil and beggar you.

Be not then any longer beguil'd or drawn in, to expect Relief from these specious, but vain and empty Promises by a single *Bolus*, a *Box of Pills*, a *Pot of Electuary*, or the like; for they know in their own Consciences [if they know any thing of the Matter] that forty of them in many of your Cases, will do no Service;

nor, if they can fix you by their *Setters*, at your first coming, will you find that you can get off so; or admit you do, to what purpose do you throw away a half Crown for a Box of *Pills*? five Shillings for a *Pot of Electuary*? a Guinea for another not worth one half of the former? three half Crowns for three Pennyworth of *Turpeth. Minerale* [a Chymical Preparation of that Name] another Guinea for two Pennyworth of nasty Spirits, impregnated with some Virtue of one sort or other, but even the Author knows not rightly what, from a few dry Chips? But indeed, as I have said already, 'tis not only so much Money flung away, but running from one of these Ignorants to another, the Opportunity lost of a substantial Cure, whilst your Disease was recent; whereas the same may be now probably so fix'd upon you, that nothing less than a *Salvation* will throw it off.

From these *Guinea Packets*, called otherwise the *Specific Electuary* and *Elixir*, I think it necessary to deliver a few Words, before I leave this part of my Subject, because I perceive they have made more Noise than any of the rest.

These two are, I think, the same honest Man's [if they are not a Club of *K—s*] who is the Author of the fa-
mou

mous *Anodyne Necklace*, and several other Curiosities, lest, as we say, if his *Knave of Spades* won't do to win the Game, he may be ready to play *Pam*, and together with his Partner Dr. C——n, to snack all the Money was laid down; whether the first was the Inventer, and the last only to Hand or Midwife it into the World, is uncertain; but sure enough that P— C——n's Name was thought very expedient to set off the Goods, and promote their Sale; and by which 'tis as evident, many hundreds have been en-snar'd; for the unfortunate and heedless Patient, being inform'd daily by some *Advertisement*, that a little Gally-pot of a new-discover'd Remedy will restore him, after so many others he had taken ineffectually; sending now for one of the learned Doctor's, or the Priest's Books, and finding here the *nice Divisions*, with the *Phylosophical Descriptions of the Causes, Signs and various Symptoms of this Distemper*, he cannot now think otherwise, but that doubtless he must be safe, and as secret as he pleases, because he need but step into a Tavern, and tip the Drawer a Tester for himself, with a Guinea [the purchase Money] to fetch him the *Sovereign all-healing Specifick*, which having swallow'd by little Morsels, according to the Direction, and finding

himself no better than from his *Pill-a-coffee* [as he calls it] he had bought of the Apothecary for less than a twentieth part of the Price, but rather that he is growing still worse; however, looking again over the bewitching Treatise, he there finds the Author so honest a Man as to tell him, *there are different Poxes, according as there are differing Habits, and therefore [just Man] he does not, nor cannot warrant that one Pot shall cure all; some need but half one [the Remainder may be sav'd for the next Clap, and so you may cheat the Quack Priest if you can] some a whole one, some two [oh rare Bite] and some probably, but they must be exceedingly unlucky, may require three.* Now our Patient aforesaid, believing himself one of these, the second Pot is sent for to as little Advantage, and then the third in like manner; when perceiving himself bubbled, he has his Choice, either to keep his own Counsel and say nothing of the Matter; or if minded to be recorded for a Fool or a Whore-monger, to take the *Specifick* seller before a Magistrate [for the Money now will not be return'd otherwise] at least to tell who he is, and make Oath, or declare he might as well have taken the Contents of the three Gally-pots and thrown them into the Privy at the first hand,

hand, as he had at the second, for any Benefit he had receiv'd thereby. Now who, I say, thinks fit to do this, among the many hundreds who have been thus impos'd on? No, no, the *Junto* knew this too well, for even the poorest Sinner that has perhaps borrow'd the Money [as several I know have done who have been thus abused] if but a menial Servant, is afraid to be seen upon this Errant, much more the Man of Note, the eminent Citizen, or the little-suspected Merchant. I have, I own, as I thought it a piece of Justice, advised forty of these cheated and deluded People, to go and demand their Money: To some who ventur'd, it was refus'd, and there was no Remedy but by a Warrant to have them before my Lord Mayor, or some other Justice of the Peace; when rather than go thus far, they have chose to sit down, as we say, by their Loss, cursing the *Quack* and his Accomplices, who for very good Reason play least in sight.

I have had, within ten Days of the Writing of this, two Examples of this kind, the one a *poor Woman abused by her Husband, finding herself out of Order, and having cause to suspect the Matter, applies with the deluded Multitude to the Specifick Remedy, which not answering the end, she*

was told she should have bought the Elixir, sold at the same Place; when having pawn'd her Cloaths to advance another Guinea, this likewise was purchas'd, but as ineffectually as the former, and so would fifty more, if she had laid them out at the same Market. Taking Pity of this honest, but miserably poor Creature, I prescrib'd what I thought her Case requir'd to the Apothecary, and coming about a Fortnight after to thank me, she told me she had now her Cure; the Apothecary taking her Word for seven Shillings so soon as she could pay him: The second a poor Errand Boy at a Tavern, had borrow'd the Guinea of three of his Acquaintance, which, tho' he had little reason for it, he might as well have thrown into the Thames, as the insignificant Electuary down his Throat, for any Relief he was like to have by it.

I have now by me a List of forty odd of these deluded Patients; some of the better sort being cur'd afterwards by my own Prescriptions to their Apothecary; others drein'd of their Money before-hand by these Means, and now Objects of the publick Charity, were recommended to the Hospitals. A Woman of the Town, whilst I was Writing this, applying for Advice on the like occasion, during my visiting her under a Salivation, told me of her own accord, that

that more than a Score of her Acquaintance of both Sexes, had been cheated by these Books and Medicines; and tho' some of them were enough scandalous, according to her Account of their Conversation in this Nature, yet none of them had Assurance enough to make their personal Appearance and demand their Money, as the Pamphleteer insinuates they may do, yet under some certain Restrictions, if they are so minded.

It remains that I take off one mighty Objection raised in their behalf, That so many People coming in, and that voluntarily, as the Advertisers make us, at least, believe, to return their publick Thanks for signal Recoveries, such Cures, as [if still you can believe them] have been look'd on by the most eminent Physicians as incurable; left off as such by others; broke out in five hundred Places; some the Evil, some the Scorvy, some the Pox, and some again the Rheumatism: But stay, I think we have another Specifick for this last, and the Gout; and the Bait being readily swallow'd, doubt you not but you will quickly have either these already invented, to perform every thing; or some others, after like manner trump'd upon you, to make the Bed-ridden start up and cut Capers, and every old Man or Woman as blith and bonny

bonny as their Grand Children : But hastening to my Argument, I say it may be objected, if there were not something in this Medicine extraordinary, how comes it these mighty Feats are thus perform'd, as the *Certificates* here imply? To which the same Answer, or much like, will serve that was made before to those *Bed-rolls* of Recoveries, some true, some false, or Catalogues of Cures by *Worm-Powders*, and other *Quack Remedies* dispers'd in publick, or after the same way.

That the Medicine may be good in many respects, tho' not so good as you may have from any legal Practitioner [where you have clearer Directions by Word of Mouth, and your Case rightly imparted, are upon less hazardous Grounds, than going thus *hit or miss* to work] for an eighth part of the Expence. *That many People have had Sores dry'd up by using it, which have made great Appearance, and are never lessen'd*, you may be sure, in the *Certificates*, that some in particular *Scorbutic Breakings out*; others with *Evil ones*, so call'd; others, lastly, with *Venereal ones* may have found Relief; all this I acknowledge possible; And yet at the same time can see nothing more than our common *Calomelanos* [the Name of a *Mercurial Preparation*, and the *Basis* most likely of theirs]

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incorporated with other Medicines, and prudently administer'd [which these Peoples, I can assure you, are not, for they neither know who the Patient is, nor what particular or direct repugnant Indication he, or she may labour under] will perform; and it would be very strange, if they could not cull out one or two in a Month to flourish with, out of the Scores, if not hundreds, who, durst they appear, especially in Cases of the *Foul Disease*, are at the same time cursing them in their Hearts, for picking their Pockets, and doing them no manner of Service.

But farther, as in those of the other kind, if you observe, you will find the Generality of their *Scenes* are laid amongst none of the most Creditable, or Persons of almost any Repute, even in Distempers where it were no Scandal to have it known, but usually with poor, silly, yet some of them perhaps well-meaning Persons. Of some I have enquir'd my self, and found so little of the *Miracle*, that the Disease never had any thing in it formidable or difficult of Cure, under the Inspection of an Artist; but having, very likely, baffled some ignorant Barber, or strolling Empirical Pretender, which they have oftentimes the Folly [to give it the mildest Name I can] to call the most learned Physicians or Surgeons;

nay,

may, I have known twenty times, when three such Quacks have been called the whole College of Physicians, or if, supposing they had once given Attendance here, and taken but one single Dose of Physick by their Directions [tho' more probably they might only go for Advice, as many of them come to us daily, and go back again without any Prescription, only hearing what we have to say to them] they here, I say, make bold with this venerable Name, as if that learned Body were unable to accomplish the Work that had been now done: Some others I found wavering in their Stories, disowning many things of Moment also in the Certificate, and which [having had a view of their particular Circumstances before; tho' no otherwise concern'd than by advising some of them to the Hospital, being very poor] I knew to be so: Others, again, being confessedly corrupted or brib'd thereto, had given Liberty to the Advertiser to put in what he pleas'd, promising if there should be Enquiry [yet many times there is none, some People taking all upon Trust, as believing no Person could so falsify] they would vouch all, if they sent them first a Copy of such Advertisement, that they might be prepar'd for the Work.

Upon these, and the like sandy Foundations, is the wretched Superstructure laid, and by these Wiles the unthinking
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Multitude ensnar'd, great Numbers of indigent or necessitous People to their utter Undoing; and a reasonably good Medicine [if this were to be allow'd as such] given thus at random, might very likely have no better Success; for none can act beyond the proper Sphere of its Activity, and a much better than this is, I can assure you, deliver'd out this way, where the Patient only can judge for himself, or has no other Encouragement *than that it has done such a Person good, who was, as he is told, just in his Condition, [tho' in reality it might essentially be diversify'd] and therefore why should it not cure him.* The best Remedy, I say, on Earth, thus only commended by one unskillful Person, and taken by another still more ignorant of the Case in all its Circumstances; for one that receives Benefit, nine shall be no whit the better, and five of this Number, not improbably prejudiced by its particular Impropriety one way or other, to their as particular or singular Habits, or some other unheeded Circumstances not to be provided for in this way of Administration; and I am ready to think, did the People who go to buy either this *Electuary* which may have some, or the *Elixir* which has not one good Property, for each of which they are to lay down a Guinea

Guinea, did they believe, I say, it were nine to one that it would hit their Case, they would doubtless consider farther of it; and I am fully satisfy'd I have made the modestest Computation the same will bear; for were it possible to discover the Truth, by the Touchstone of every single Testimony of those who have try'd it, I would lay these odds my self of one hundred Guineas to ten, that not so much as one in ten were one Pin the better for either of them: But no Matter, whilst the Latin Proverb implies, *That the Smell of Gain, even from any thing, is to some People in the World, exceeding sweet and grateful.*

Before I bid adieu to this Remedy, I must let you know, that a Surgeon of my Acquaintance, personating the Patient, applied himself to Dr. C——n, feigning very great Complaints, especially of *Nocturnal Pains* in his *Head, Shoulders and Shins*, arising from a pretended Infection gotten some Years before, and therefore he desired he would be so candid as to let him have his real Thoughts whether or no he might depend on the *Specific Remedy*, so much recommended, for this Cure, or what other Course he must take to obtain the same, for he was minded to put himself under his Direction;

to whom the Doctor, believing doubtless he should make better Earnings than in snacking part of the Profit of a Guinea Gally-pot, Sir, says he, *the Specific is a very pretty Composition in some Infections, but to deal plainly with you, it will not reach your Case; nor will any other Remedy [if there were a better than the Specific] than a Salivation.* Truly, Doctor, says the Surgeon, now making himself known, I am of your Mind, yet cannot chuse but wonder that you, who know much better, should suffer your Name to be used to countenance that Roguish Cheat that is carry'd on to the great Detriment of so many poor People, several of whom I have had under my own Care, when you and your Accomplices have got all the Money they had from them. Upon this more Words arising, great Threats also following on both sides, the Contest ended, and the Surgeon left him to do what he thought fit, which was to take all in good part, and put up the Affront, lest more Noise might have been, attended with some other Disadvantage.

I cannot see there will need farther Arguments to convince any Man, who is not, as they say, wilfully deaf to all; that there is no Security in a Dependance upon any one of these *Empirical or Quack*
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Remedies; or to prove, that the Authors of them have any more in view, than to raise their own Fortunes upon the Ruins of some poor People, and tricking others by their plausible Tales and Inventions out of their Money; and that consequently, whoever is at first able to raise five or ten Pounds for seeing a Physician, or to satisfy an able Surgeon, will not only lay out his Money better, but find himself also at less Expence [all things consider'd] by the one half; chiefly in that he will much sooner have a good and substantial Cure, and be set out of danger of a Relapse; for what, alas! will it avail, if you should be patch'd up a little by one *Quack's* Box of Pills, a second's *Bolus*, or a third's *Electuary*; throwing away, fourthly, two or three Guineas for the *Specific Bottles* and *Gally-pots*, losing several Weeks, if not as many Months of your Time; fifthly, lumping it with another for the Sum I at first mention'd; hence worse than ever taken in by a sixth to be Salivated, there risking your Life, or if escaping, yet [for want of Skill in this nice Point of Practice, for there is more in it, believe me, than knowing what will make you Spit] some time after relapsing and growing worse than ever; spoil'd thus, at length a larger Sum may be requir'd, and

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and well-deserved too, by the judicious Artist, if possible to recover you: Besides, we have already told you, that this Method of thus retailing their Remedies by the half Crown, five Shillings, three half Crowns, ten Shillings, or the Guinea and thirty or forty Shilling Packets [for such also there are sold by the *Generous* and *Charitable Quacks*, under the Titles of Physicians and Surgeons] is but to draw you in; and being once enter'd, you must still repeat where you began, or begin again with a second, third, fourth, &c. as aforesaid; when, casting up your Sum total, it is a Chance if you don't find that before you are got half way to your Journeys end, it has cost you more Pounds than you were told in their lying *Bills* and *Books*, it would do Shillings. To how many [finding who they are] have they, not under Pretext of Credit, made themselves, as it were, Pensioners for some Years, receiving by the Week, the Month, or Quarter, so much Money, what they please now to demand? How many have been forced to pawn their Watches, their Cloaths, nay, the Beds they lay upon, to make Satisfaction, rather than be expos'd to the World, or lose some sorry livelihood by the Loss of their Reputation, now crying at these Peoples Mercy?

If these or the like Relations, grounded upon real Facts, and many sad Instances of which are Weekly brought into our Hospitals, having first been stripp'd of all by such like Methods; if these, I say, are not sufficient to open your Eyes, and let you see where you are going, when you apply your selves to these most ignorant, and basely designing People, what will, unless your own dear bought, and now perhaps too late, Experience thereof?

I know it is the settled, not only Saying, but real Opinion, of some, *If the People will be deceiv'd, let the People be deceiv'd*; but I think the Expression harsh and utterly Uncharitable; nor can I believe any of you would willingly be thus impos'd on: but that it is always through some kind of Ignorance of the Subject, wherein a Cheat is difficultly discover'd; or an over Credulity, by taking Falshood for the Truth [a Snare being so cunningly laid in your way, and the same so artfully disguised] that you suffer your selves to be thus abused. From all which, that I may farther rescue you, and set you out of the Power [if you persist not in the same Credulity or Easiness of Belief] of these Destroyers both of your Health and Wealth, I shall here [according to my Promise] lay down some Rules, by which the meanest Capacity,

city, may be able to distinguish between an *Able and Honest Physician or Surgeon*, and an *Ignorant and Knavish Empiric or Impostor*.

First then, if you happen to meet with any *Physick Book*, how learnedly soever the Author may seem to you to handle his Argument ; yet if you find him *talking of any Secret, of which he is Master, or way of Cure peculiar to himself, which for very particular Reasons he is not to divulge ; and more especially, if in any part of the said Treatise he boasts of his own Remedies, enters their Names with great Encomiums of their Virtues, but tells you not expressly what they are, as well as what they will do, or in short signifies, that you can purchase them of him only*, you may depend upon it, the Author, let him be who he will, is no other than a *Quack*, and the very Design of publishing such Book, means nothing more than a *Quack Bill* : If you observe, you will find the same as often Advertis'd in the News Papers [sometimes the Title Page also of the Book stuck upon Posts] as his own, or others *Bills* are given about the Streets, by which he finds his Account [drawing in the unwary] so great, as to think it worth while to be at twice the Charge perhaps in Advertising, as the whole Impression of his Pamphlet cost at first.

I have already told you, if a Man can but write a Book, that is, very commonly transcribe great part at least, [as the *Modern Syphilis* has done] Word for Word out of another, and give it a new Name, especially if the People see *M. D.* at the Bottom, he is reckon'd, by a sort of Consequence, some famous Doctor: But let none of these poor Shifts or Sights deceive you, mark but this Hint I have given you, and you will quickly see the Drift of such Publication, was only to sell off some *Packets of Quack Remedies*, and hedge you into his Clutches, where 'tis odds but he will Pinch, if he does not Gripe you to Death.

I have been the longer upon this peculiar Sign, because I find almost all of them have, of late, taken up this Trade of writing Books. Thus one comes out to catch you with his *Venus deceiv'd*; a second, his *Tomb of Venus*; a third, his *true and succinct Account of the Venereal Disease*; a fourth, *A short Account of the same* [mind here the Bait] *publish'd for the Common Good*, and with this farther Insinuation [oh monstrous Impudence, mix'd with as great Ignorance] *that if you apply to him, he will direct you next time you pick up a W—re, how you may escape being Clapt*; a fifth, with his *Modern Syphilis* [in Opposition

position to the Honest *Syphilis* printed just before] who tho' he is so Modest as not to boast of his *Nostrums*, is as much a *Plagiary* [called otherwise a Theif] as any of the rest; and who, lest you should not smell out his Design, gives you to understand that he is Mr. M——'s Partner [sic upon him] in *Venereal Practices*; a sixth has had the Confidence to write a *History of Quackery*, a *London's Medicinal Informer*, yet himself as errant an *Empiric* as ever the Town bred: So that you see by these *Wolves* appearing in the Cloathing of the *Sheep*, it behoves you to stand upon your Guard, lest [as I told you before] these pretended *Angels of Light*, but in reality more nearly [by their base Actions] related to the *D—l*, should happen to insnare you.

Secondly, should it chance at any Time some printed Piece of Paper or *Bill*, should be thrust into your Hand, or thrown in at your Shop Window, containing a long Scroll of pretended or real *Cures*, perform'd by such or such Medicines, sold at such particular Places; or some *Capital Letters* at the Top, importing, that at such or such an House [whether *Golden Heads* or *Balls*, or whatever other Signal is hung out, as *Lamps* and *Lanthorns* over the Doors] you may have certain, *safe*

and speedy Cure for the Grand Pox or Clap, with all their Attendants, know for certain this is a Trap laid for you and other credulous People; and as you value your Health, or Comfort of your Lives, despise and condemn their treacherous Invitations, with an *avoid Satan, get thee behind me*; at least, put the same in your Pockets till you may use it thereupon a fitter Occasion.

I have already told you who are their Authors, with their Qualifications, and that as sure as you listen to them, or are drawn in by them, you will repent you had not taken this Advice.

The like Warning I must give you against *Advertisements* in the *News-Papers*, or other publick *Prints*, to put off Medicines of any kind; but I think I need not say much upon this Subject, because I have already made it appear, that no *Remedy*, how valuable soever in it self [much less these *Tradesmens Traffick*, with fair out-sides, fine Bottles, Pots, and famous Coats of Arms, to prevent what they call *Counterfeits*, and yet are nothing more themselves] can be so order'd, but that some particular Circumstance in the Sick of one kind or other, will inevitably render them more hurtful than helpful; or that for one who can receive Benefit, many will be injur'd. This, I say, will hold true

true of the best Medicine, but there are few or none we are now speaking of, that are fit for much better purpose than to load a *Dung-Cart*, and as such to be buried in some *Laystall* at the Town's end. Nor let [as abovesaid] any of their Tales of wonderful Cures wrought by them, of which very probably you may have a new one in two or three Months, but every Day some old one, some too of a twelvemonth, and frequently six Months standing, drest up as if of yesterday, on purpose to deceive you: Nay, you will find the whole List of perhaps their ten or fifteen Years setting up for Doctors [which some of them distribute once a Year] does not amount to more than such a Number, when, if the Truth could be come at, it would appear they had most grossly cheated many hundreds in half the Time: Let not these, I say, have any weight with you, for were it not that the deluded People are ashamed the World should know how they have been bubbled by these Stories, for one in their behalf, you would see fifty Advertising that they had been cheated, or that they had flung away half a Crown, a Crown, ten Shillings, a Guinea [not to mention the many Pounds they had the same way confounded] to buy more Wit.

I am told there is an honest and worthy Gentleman, a Practitioner [whether for his own private Satisfaction, or for some other Use hereafter intended to be made thereof, is not the Question here] has made it his Business to get Intelligence of this kind; and six Months past, his List of those abused by the *Scheme* Merchants, under colour of curing the Pox, and the Childrens Teeth, amounted to upwards of two hundred; of those imposed on by *M——r* in *A——c——L——*, to one hundred and odd; those cheated by *Dr. W——t* the *S——r*, near one hundred; somewhat about the same Number by the quondam Country Apothecaries Boy in *B——C——T——*; and not many less by his Footman in the *F——t*; besides, great Numbers by others pretending to Knowledge in some parts of Physick or Surgery, such as *Cancer* and *King's Evil Quacks*; *Occulists* both *ordinary* and *extraordinary*, with the like.

The Method of collecting this Intelligence, has been from *Physicians*, *Surgeons* and *Apothecaries*, as well in the Town as in the Country, to whose Care these deluded, and many of them utterly ruin'd Patients, happen'd to be committed, when they had tried ineffectually these *Empirical Remedies*, or been abandon'd by some *Quack* Un-

Undertaker, after the Payment of a good round Sum in hand, which is all these People aim at, well knowing they have no title by their Articles to what's behind. Consider now, that it is scarce possible any more than one in ten of these Relations, has yet come to Light; since 'tis little more, I am inform'd, of whom the Question has been ask'd to communicate what they know of this Affair; so that if this well deserving Person goes on, and the Gentlemen of the Professions aforesaid will assist him, especially those belonging to our *Hospitals*, with what they know concerning the same, his Account must still vastly increase; and for one Recovery, with which these People can present you, this Gentleman, if he pleases, will furnish you with twenty [upon the indisputable Testimony of Men of the greatest Learning, Judgment and Probity in the Kingdom] who have been no ways better'd, but most of them prejudiced exceedingly by the same Hand.

So fond indeed of Novelties, of almost any sort, are our *English* People more especially, that any Pretence to a new Method of Healing, or some new Remedy [at least an old one with a new Name] is greedily entertain'd by them; of which, great Advantage is made by designing

signing Men, who, when the old Cheat will take no longer, are put upon some new Invention. Thus the *Quack M——n* in *H——G——*, when he first set up this Trade, began with *Book-writing*, at least printing *Title Pages* thereof instead of *Bills*, and posting of them up in all parts of the Town; scarce the Trunk of an old Tree in *Moorfields* but could eccho forth the Praise of his new Discovery to cure the Pox. This being worn threadbare, the famous *Atyla* comes forth; now, by the way, my Dictionary tells me, this *Atyla* was a famous Warlike *Scythian* Prince, who kill'd himself with a Debauch, whether by Wine or Women is not mention'd, either of them might bring him to the *Gout*, and that put him upon Enquiry after a *Remedy*, which having discover'd, and our Doctor lighting upon his Original *Manuscript*, where this Prince had enter'd it with his own Hand, very happily found out the same.

This Game being play'd a little while, not without the Loss of some Lives, as the Town talks, there next appears a *Powder* to supply the Rascally *Jesuits Bark* [whose very Name has been enough to frighten many People away from it, and consequently to make them desirous of any thing to supply its Place] which, however gather'd
under

under the most fortunate Planet [as it was surmised] would not take at all. I had forgot to tell you, that long before this, we had a *Grand Sterickton* [who this *Sterickton* was I know not, but take him to be a Foreigner, very probably related to King *Atyla* afore said] an *Elixir Exonerans*; and now, lately, we have a *Chymical English Spirit* [I wish it may cure the *Itch* for Novelties] to overcome the *Leprosy*, *Itch*, and all the Tribe of *Cutaneous* Diseases; and I dare believe, if he were to dress up a *dry Post*, and christen it *Pantagolon*, or by some other uncouth Appellation, setting forth its admirable Virtues, for this or the other Distemper, there would not want some short-sighted, or unthinking Customers to enquire after it.

Before I pass on farther, I think it here expedient to observe, that a late *Quack* has taken great Advantage to justify his *Empirical* Method of scribbling over *Books*, but especially giving *Bills* about the Streets, by instancing the like Practice in Dr. *Pechey*, of the *College of Physicians*, and Dr. *Salmon* [as he calls him] likewise in Mr. *Neeaham* the *Surgeon*; he might have also added his Brother *Martin*, and Mr. *Moor* among the *Apothecaries*. For the first of these, I can only say I am sorry that any Man of a liberal Education, should have
thus

thus dishonour'd his Profession ; I am sure he has been reprehended by the College for so doing ; and if each of the learned Members thereof do number him therefore among *Quacks* and *Empirics*, he must blame no body but himself ; as for *Salmon*, he never was any other his whole Lifetime ; the best that can be said of him is this, that he was a good *Chymist*, but like them, *Empirical*, *Immethodical*, and entirely unacquainted with Rules of Art ; he was neither *Surgeon* nor *Apothecary*, nor would either of those Corporations ever admit him a Member of their Societies, much less the *Royal College of Physicians*, altho' he pretended to be a great Proficient in all three ; he was, indeed, a great Friend to the *Paper Manufacture*, large quantities of which he wasted in his Collections and Transcripts from other Writers ; nor can it be said truly, that he was ever the real Author of one good Book, tho' he spoiled a great Number by his foolish *Translations*, *Alterations*, *Additions*, *Comments*, *Explanations*, or *Annotations*, together with the extravagant Characters of his Medicines, by which he has made his Readers pay five Shillings instead of one, and taught every one to be as much a *Quack* as himself, which he call'd their *Birth-right*, that is, a Right to

run

run from their own honest *Mechanic* Employments, and set up, under pretence of Doctors and Surgeons, to play with Peoples Lives. He might very well have left out *Needham*, who never was of any Reputation among the *Surgeons*, nor knew as little of the Art they profess; but having rashly destroy'd some of his Neighbours at one part of the Town, by throwing them into Salivations, which was his Cure for almost all Diseases, he was forced to fly into another, where he skulk'd [as I have heard] up and down, till having entirely forfeited the little Reputation he ever was Master of, he set up for *Quack*, giving *Bills* about Town to cure the *Foul Disease*: But surely after all this, admitting the *Physicians* have had a *Pechey*; the *Surgeons* a *Needham* and a *Martin*; and the *Apothecaries* a *Moor* [take *Salmon* who pleases] this I say, certainly, is a very pitiful Plea for this kind of Practice, since every of these have been justly reprehended and condemned by their several Bodies or Societies, and treated also [as they have deserved] no otherwise than with Scorn, Ignominy or Contempt. To proceed now:

Thirdly, Whoever hangs out a *Piss-pot* for his *Standard*, i. e. the Sign of a *Urinal*, or pretends, upon sight of your Water, to tell

tell your Infirmities, and direct Medicines without seeing the Sick Person, or other Scrutiny, by asking the Patient or his Friends, such proper Questions as may let them into some better Knowledge than is commonly to be had thereby, believe them not, they are Cheats, and intend to pick your Pocket not only of six Pence or a Shilling for what they call *casting your Urine* [which they deserve much better should be cast in their Faces] but by drawing you in with some fearful Story or other of your Danger, to take a Packet with you of their *Mundungus*, their *Stuff*, as one of them himself very well names it, that may recover you from this imminent Danger they see [with both their Eyes] very plainly in your Urine, you labour under.

There are many Persons so bewitch'd with these Fooleries, or drawn in by these *Water-slingers*, conceiving it so easy a way of coming at the Knowledge of their Distempers [*some to know whether they are with Child, without the necessity of appearing in the Case themselves; others, whether they shall recover of the Sicknefs they labour under, with such like*]; that one of these Fellows, a Weaver I think by Trade, and a French Man, some where about *Spittle-fields*, falling upon this Method of deceiving the People, under pretence of finding their

their Diseases in their *Water*, has acquir'd [as I am inform'd by some who know him] some thousands of Pounds; having now rais'd his Price, and altho' so very illiterate as that he can scarce Read or Write intelligibly, has such Crowds of People flocking to him of all sorts to be eased of their Money, and know their Doom from this *infamous and lying Oracle*, that his Door, they say, is seldom free from one or other of these simple People, who taking their Turns, one at a time as they first came; he puts on his *Conjuring Cap*, lifts up the Urinal, shakes his Head, and begins very gravely his Speech, *Dis Person very bad*; Yes, indeed Doctor replies the old Woman, so *he* is: Hence he gathers it is a Man's Water, and goes on; *Dis be de Man's Water, good Woman, is it not?* Yes, Sir, answers the Messenger. Then very demurely looking thereon again, he runs over his common Catalogue us'd at all times, as thus: *Here be much Pain in de Head*, then looking wishfully in the Woman's Face, to see if she contradicts him, if she say, not much, Sir, in the Head, *then here be great Pain in de Breast*: Very much indeed, Sir, replies old Nurse: *Me see here be very great Disorder in de Breast, and also in de Stumaach.* Yes, truly, Sir, says she, he has not eat
a Bit

a Bit of Victuals these ten Days. Then Monsieur goes on ; *here be de greatest Pain in de Stumaach and de Bowels, de Liver be decay, de Spleen half rotten ; and that, Sir, says the old Nurse, is, I suppose, the Reason makes him cry out of his Back, does it not, Sir ? Hold, hold, says the Doctor, you do no well to interrupt what me going to tell you : Here he looks again, and taking hold of this new Advantage she had given him ; Dis Man's Kidney be de worst me seen dis Morning ; he be Ulcer in de Kidney ; great Pain, oh very great Pain, poor Man. Truly, Sir, says Nurse, making a low Courtesy at every turn, so great Pain he cannot sleep Night nor Day : Dis poor Man be likewise fallen away in de Body and all his Limbs ; and who can suppose less from a Hint of his great Pain, and want of Nourishment, by way of Recruit, for so many Days past ; in short, the Doctor being also in haile to dispatch the rest of the Fools, waiting to be call'd for, concludes thus ; Dis Man be very bad indeed, he will fall into de Consumetion if you no take great Care ; but if he take me Stuff, it will by God's Blessing [this sacred Name is ever used to give a Sanction to their Villainy] do him great Good ; me purging Elixir and me Gally-pot of Stuff, me Wife can give you, for your Money, for you see dare be many oders stay me coming.* This

This Harangue finish'd, here is first a Shilling for *casting the Water*, and four or five if she has so much about her [if not she must haste Home and fetch it; for who would let a poor Man die for want of this good Stuff] to pay for the Medicines.

After this manner has this *French Monkey* imposed upon ten thousand simple People, and sent them Home also with not so good as a *hit or miss Remedy*, yet full Satisfaction of his great Abilities in the *Piss-prediction*, or *casting of Urine*, as they word it; because having huddled over [as is his way] all parts of the Body [for the Distemper must be somewhere] and taking some Advantage of a silly Woman's Ignorance, getting hold of some Hint as above-mention'd, he at length goes over again in a more particular Manner with his Gibberish, and now fixes the Main of the Disorder in those Parts he gather'd from such Hints, excusing himself, if he sees occasion, by saying, that notwithstanding the Sick do not immediately take Notice 'as yet of those Parts [where he happen'd to be out at his random Guess] yet these are beginning to be touch'd with the Disease, and if care be not taken, *that is, if he will not take some stuff*, it will soon discover it self

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by these Complaints also, and endanger his Life.

'Tis not above a Month past from the setting down this Relation, since a notable shrewd Country Man brought up his Son's Urine to this *French* Man, whose Fame had occasion'd his Journey of ten Miles: The Country Man being exceedingly reserv'd, and expecting the Conjuror could find every thing out in the Piss; it happen'd that the Doctor going over his List of *de Head, de Breast, de Belly, de Stumaach, de Liver, de Spleen, de Kidney, &c.* and finding the Country Man made not one Word reply, but seem'd to smile; Pray, Sir, says the Doctor, *How long has your Wife* [for he reckon'd of Course, the Husband had brought his Wife's Water] *been Sick?* The Country Man stands mute a little while, and the Doctor looking again upon the Water, cries out [as finding the Country Man would be too many for him] *Dis be ae strange Vater me ever see: Surely dis be no Christens Vater; Are you sure dis be de Christens Vater? Me no know what to make of dis Vater.* Here the Country Man discovering the Doctor's gross Ignorance, told him it was his Son's Urine; but he perceiv'd him utterly out in all he had said of his Distemper. Upon this he

pours

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pours out the Water, and says, *Are you sure dis be your Son's Vater?* Yes, says the old Man, I see him make it, and put it up my self this Morning. Then, says the Doctor, *Me sorry for you, your Son got de Grand Pox.* Upon this, the Country Man, in great Passion, was ready to fall upon him, calls him [as he deserved] an ignorant Rascal; and told him, had his Wife been there, she would have pull'd off his *Conjuring Cap*, if not his Eyes out. Upon a little softening, the Doctor pray'd him not to be so warm, seem'd to recant, and desir'd him to let him know what uncommon Disease it was that had thus puzzled him? Hereupon, the honest Country Man tells him, he believ'd he knew all Diseases alike by seeing their Urine, that was as much as came to nothing; that the Country People said his Son was under an ill Tongue, which he now found true, in that he had thus scandalized a virtuous and sober Youth, with saying he had got the *Foul Disease*. Others said the Distemper was *Lunacy*, and that his Son was in danger of going Mad. Upon which, the Doctor thinking he had now some Hole to creep out at, replies presently, *Me thought it was some very strange Disease; Me cure all Diseases, but me no pretend to de cure of mad Folks; you must go to*

de Mad Doctor. Truly, says the Country Man, I am surely right then, for 'tis plain if you are not a Mad Doctor, you are either Fool or Knave; and, I think, I was either Mad or Bewitch'd my self, to take a Journey of ten Miles, to hear a Fellow talk ten times more foolishly than our Country Apothecary, who will have ~~him~~ under an Ill-Tongue. Thus ended the Parley; the Doctor insisted upon his Shilling [for there was no room for his *Stuff*] but the Country Man raising a Stir about the Door, they were glad to get rid of him without. From this famous *Urine-Caster*, the Water [being put up again in the Bottle] was brought straight to my House; upon sight whereof, I told the Country Man I could tell him nothing to his Purpose, for it was all Cheat and Roguery in the Pretence: Truly, Sir, says he, I am now convinc'd that it is so; but is there nothing indeed, continues he, to be drawn thence? Yes, I told him there was, but not sufficient to direct a Physician of it self in his prescribing for the Sick; however, finding the Country Man more than ordinarily inquisitive after the Certainty of these Matters, I told him all I could infer from the Water he now brought [which appearing exceeding crude and pale, as in some Nervous Distempers it always is, as
also

also in some kinds of Obstructions] was, that it might possibly be his Wife's Water, troubled with *Vapours*; his Daughters in the *Green Sickness*; his own, or his Son's under *Hypochondriac Melancholy*: Ah, Sir, says he, there you have hit it; your *Chondrack* I know nothing of, but the *Melancholy* is my Son's Case. Upon this he told him that had pass'd just before with his *French Doctor*, and seem'd now well pleased that he had taken his Journey, if only for the Satisfaction he had receiv'd in the Affair of *Water-Casting*.

There have been, perhaps, as many Tricks put upon this *Monsieur the Piss-Prophet*, as all others about the Town besides. Thus some for their Diversion, have sent him Cows-piss, others Horse-piss; when the Doctor going over his Catalogue as customary; the Messenger, when he had done, told him, she was sent only to know whither the Gentlewoman she came from was with Child? and if he could discover, by his great Skill in *Waters*, if it was like to be a Son or Daughter? Hereupon he calls for a clean Glass, pours the Water back and forwards seven times, then lets it settle a Minute; then again putting on his Spectacles, more narrowly examining the same at the Window, he returns, *Tell your*

Mistres, very gravely says the Conjuror, *she be with Shild, it be so small me over-look it at first, me pretty sure it be de Man Shild* [that being generally the most acceptable News to the good Woman] *but de Shild be so weak that it no live; she miscarry if she have not me Stuff to prevent it; so paying her Shilling, and promising to come again for the Stuff; she returns and the Company laugh heartily who sent her.*

Almost infinite are the Blunders this Man commits daily, and when some Gentlemen tell him that they had sent him such and such Tryals of his Skill, as now related, perhaps abuse him too, and call him ignorant Fellow, he is still ready to take all in good part, and seldom retorts otherwise than with a Jest, as, *What care me, me win your Money, me let you laugh.*

Another of this Tribe, has exercis'd more cunning, and got an Estate also by the knavish way of inspecting the *Urinal*; by whom, more than all others, the common People have been encourag'd to run about with their *Piss-Bottles*, and even to bring them to Physicians themselves; not one of which, 'tis certain, could ever this way, give them half the Satisfaction; for at the first sight, *He discovers the Sex, the Age, whether Married or a Virgin, how long they*

they have been Sick to half a quarter of an Hour, as well as of what Distemper, together with divers other Circumstances you would think impossible; insomuch that some of them have reported him to be a good Man, and has these Matters supernaturally reveal'd to him; others, that he uses *Magic*, which they call the *Black*, and deals with the *Devil*, and therefore they are almost afraid of him, flinging down their Money, as I have heard some have done, and running out of the House, have look'd back to see whether any evil *Demon* was not pursuing them.

This *Urine-Prophet's* Custom, as I heard it at the second hand, from one who had it from his Servant, who had liv'd in the House some time, and tho' sworn to Secrecy, it seems by the Master, did, upon a Squabble betwixt them [after quitting the Place] discover this Piece of Roguish Confederacy, I am to relate.

The Contrivance was this [a Cheat I find practis'd many Ages past] he had always an old Woman [sometimes two or three, when Business was very flush] whom he named his *Decoys*, drest up in the Habit of a Nurse, with an old Ridinghood and a Bottle of Piss under it, whose Business it was from nine to twelve

[the Hours he gave out he would be spoke with] to attend in the common Waiting Room, and as any fresh Customer came in, she was to sift them, first telling her own Errand, that she had brought a Man's, Woman's, or Child's Urine, who had been Sick so long, of such or such an Illness; then enquiring after theirs [if they did not open of their own accords,] usually this way, the good Women, and tatling Nurses especially, are very communicative, and want little pressing upon them for a Discovery]. The one lets her know she was come about her Daughter; a second, her Husband; a third, her Son; a fourth, her Mistress; a fifth, Mr. such an one's Wife, Husband or Child, each having lain so long, of this or that Disease; describing presently the several Symptoms. All this while the Doctor being planted on the other side the Partition, banister'd a Top, whereby the Sound has easy Admittance, and his Peep-hole conveniently besides so order'd, that he can both hear the Voice, and see each particular Habit or Dress, at least enough to know them presently; here he enters the Heads of each Complaint in his Minute Book kept for that Purpose.

When Matters are thus prepar'd, the Doctor already dress'd, steals out at his Back.

Back-door, comes round, and [as if just return'd from some of his Patients] knocks at the Fore-door, where the poor Fools through the Glass can plainly see him. Being let in, he asks, perhaps, which of them was in the greatest haste, or had come soonest? When now the *Decoy*, to prevent still any Jealousy in the rest, excuses herself, *as a very poor Woman who had often troubled his Worship, and had Advice sometimes for nothing, she was not in so much haste, but could stay till he was at Leisure.* The Rest entering the Parlour on the other side, one after the other as they were dispatch'd: So soon as one of them comes in, he retires [after viewing her for a Minute] to his Study at the end of the Room; and looking on his Minutes to find the Story belonging to this particular Habit, he returns, takes the Water and steps to the Window, where he recounts such particular Circumstances of the Case, that the poor silly Creature stands amaz'd, and cries out, *Indeed, Sir, if you had been within him [or her as it happens] you could never more truly have discover'd the Case. Well then, good Woman, says his Worship, the Disease being found out, the Cure will be easier to be perform'd also; sit you down, and my Servant shall give you some Remedies presently.*

Here

Here to show yet more Cunning, and farther to spread his Fame, he calls for another, and, as before, stepping back to his Minutes to see that no Mistake was committed, and to know what Heads of them she belongs to, he just takes the Water into his Hand, and strait returns it: saying, *Mistress, what do you bring me this Water for, your Daughter can't recover without much difficulty; she has, I find it at the Top of the Water, a defect from her Birth which can't be remedy'd; she is crooked and bunch'd out in her Breast, has a great Cough and Pain in her Side; she must be purged, for she has not had a Stool these five Days; her Pain is under her left Breast; and it seems by the Water [which he now takes up again] to shoot quite through to her Back.* All this while the poor Woman stands as one confounded; at last, when he has describ'd all to a tittle, she cries, *God bless your Worship, I am sure by what you say, if any Man can cure her it must be your self: Pray good Doctor let me have some of your Medicines, for tho' I am a Working Woman, I shall think nothing too much for my Daughter's good.*

I have given you only a Taste of these Peoples villainous Practices to amuse and cheat you; for it were, doubtless, both uneasy to my Reader, as well as tiresome
to

to my self, to repeat more of the same kind.

Somewhat related to this Gang, was our late *Conjuring Fortune-teller* as well as *Water-Caster* Dr. T——r in M——r-f——s, who had formerly carried a Yoke with Tubs from a Brew-house, and afterward kept a little Tippling House on the Road-side: A Fellow so wretchedly Ignorant as not to know his Letters, yet boasted, that by such Pranks as these, he laid up two hundred Pounds a Year, and spent twice as much. I shall only relate one pleasant Tale of him, which I have been inform'd, was the Foundation of his setting up for a *Conjurer*, a *Fortune-teller*, a *Helper of People to their stolen Goods*; *Ladies* [and such I can assure you came frequently *incognito* in *Hackney Coaches*] to consult him who were to be their *Husbands*? and whether the *Match in hand* already was like to prove prosperous? what *Land* was best to live in for those who were bent upon leaving their own? the *Sick* also, whether for *Life* or *Death*? with twenty Questions of this Nature, which none but Fools ask after, and none but sorry ignorant Knaves pretend to resolve. The Tale is this:

A young Gentleman [as it should seem better stock'd with Money than somewhat else] riding very frequently by this *Conjuring*

*jur*ing Ale-seller's Door, would sometimes stop and call for Drink; being pleas'd with the Fellows way of Talk, and having always at his Horse Heels, a sporting Dog he much esteemed: Now it happen'd some time after, this Dog was either lost or stoln, when our *Fortune-teller* in his Rambles out of Town, looking accidentally through the Iron Pallisades, espies the Dog following a Servant about the Court-yard of a Gentleman's House; upon which, taking no Notice now to any Body whatever: The next time the Master rode by, T——r ask'd him if he had heard any News of his Dog? the Gentleman told him he had not, but would willingly give any one two Guineas, that could give him any Notice of him: *Master*, replies the Knave, *I will puzzle my Brains for you till I find him: I have holpen many to their Goods stoln by my Skill in Astrology; and I will erect a Scheme against you come again, whereby I doubt not but to get Intelligence.* The Week following, the young Gentleman very seriously comes to T——r to know what he could find by his Scheme; to whom this *Arch-Cheat* replies, *Sir, I am got thus far for certain, that either he is carry'd away and sold to some Gentleman that lives seven Miles East, or seven Miles West.* Upon this

this Encouragement, the Spark presently dismounts his Footman, as the Story is told, and sets up T——r in order to the *Peregrination*; when to colour the Roguery the better, he carries the Gentleman first of all the wrong Circuit, which was the Eastern, looking, as they rode along, one on the Right-side, the other on the Left, the Master still whistling and calling his dear Dog by his Name; but *Quixot* and *Sancho* like, returned disappointed in this first Adventure; the third Day after was appointed for the Western Circuit, when riding as before, and calling at every Gentleman's Door they came at, but without Success; so soon as they came within a Mile of the Place, Sir, says the Knave, *be not discourag'd, my Life for yours we have the Dog home with us this Night.* Then taking out his Scheme, and looking very earnestly, he mumbles over what came next, *Saturn in the sixth, in Opposition to Jupiter in the fourth House, Mercury in Trine, but Mars has still the Ascendant: Master, says he, we are right, your Dog I am sure is not a Mile from this Cross-way; do you ride gently on whistling and calling out for him, whilst I ride down here a quarter of a Mile, to yonder House, and do the same.* In short, the poor deluded 'Squire taking each Houle in his way;

way; at last looking through the Palli-
fades afore-mention'd, sets up his wonted
Call and Whistle, when immediately at
the Sound of the Master's Voice, out
comes the Dog from the House to the
Rails, ready to fly over them: The Gen-
tleman over-joy'd, knocks boldly at
the Door, and demands his Dog, and
whilst he was parlying with some of the
Family, the *Conjurer*, as if knowing no-
thing of the Matter, rides up, swears
heartily he knew the Dog to be the Gen-
tleman's; and after some high Words,
he was set at Liberty from his Confine-
ment, giving every one sufficient Evi-
dence, by his frisking, jumping, and run-
ning after the Horse he was used to fol-
low, that he was got to his proper Owner.
And thus, in great Joy they both ride
Home, the Gentleman for having got his
Dog, and T——r as well pleased, not only
for that he had out-witted the 'Squire, and
so easily earned his two Guineas, but that
hence forward, among ignorant People,
he should be deem'd [as he was indeed
ever after to the Day of his Death, when
by these Cheats of *Fortune-telling*, *Water-
casting*, and the like, he left upwards of
two thousand Pounds] a very *Conjurer*.

But leaving these Stories, into which I
have been led, as it were, unawares, by
the

the Contrivances of one kind or other, of these Knavish People, to impose upon the unwary : It may be ask'd by some, since the Practice is so common, not with *Quacks* only, but some Physicians also, to have the same brought to them for Inspection, if I believe no Knowledge more than I have before hinted in the late Story of the Country Man, can be taken from the Sick Person's *Urine*? I answer, in some Cases, very little; in others, more; in others, none at all; and in none, such sufficient Intimations as [without farther Enquiry before also remark'd, seeing the Patient, examining his Pulse, and taking the State of his Case in several other Interrogatories, from his own Mouth] should induce a prudent Practitioner, to order any Remedy for the same; for it is apparent, so very uncertain is this Guide, that oftentimes a Person in perfect Health, unless perhaps some little Cold upon him, as 'tis called, yet Eating, Drinking, and Sleeping well, shall make a *turbid* or *foul Urine*; whilst others labouring under some dangerous Sicknefs, or perhaps nigh the Point of Death, shall make, to all Appearance, one much better; and, truly, in some *Malignant Fevers* [which, of all others, are the most fatal] the *Urine* will frequently appear like to
that

that in the Time of Health, the Disease being here seated rather in the Spirits, than the grosser Humours of the Blood. A *high-colour'd Urine* shews commonly some great Inflammation therein ; but whether the Complaint be in the *Head*, the *Breast*, *Belly*, or universally all over the Body, is uncertain ; and no Man can say [but by meer Guess] that the Person who made the same, has an *Inflammation on the Membranes, particularly of the Brain*, or a *Pleurisy*, a *Cholick*, or a *Rheumatism*. A very *pale Water* on the other hand, is often made in *Fevers* also, portending great danger, by the Matter taking to the *Head*, and threatening *Convulsions* ; yet the same, or like Water is made, as I have observ'd before, by *Hysterical Women*, and some *obstructed Virgins*, also after drinking *French*, *White*, and *Rhenish* Wines ; so that it would be the Height of Rashness, to ground our Judgment solely upon this wavering and uncertain Bottom ; or to direct Medicines by a Speculation of *Colours*, or *Consistencies* either in the Patient's *Urine* ; which may be so many ways diversify'd, and have so many little Accidents, unforeseen by the nicest Judgment, concurring to their Production. 'Tis allow'd, that a *bloody Water* shews commonly the *Kidney* to be affected,

espe-

especially if in great quantity, the *Bladder* seldom furnishing but little; yet it is not impossible for other Causes, out of the Blood, to supply the like Appearance; so that without farther Enquiry, it would be rash to say positively, such a Person has therein [I mean his *Kidney*] either *Stone* or *Gravel*. A Water with Corruption, or which Physicians call *putrulent*, indicates some *Ulcer*; a *wheyish*, *slimy* one, and sometimes *branny Scales*, a *Stone* therewith; yet even here an Enquiry after the Seat of the Pain, whether in the *Loyns* or bottom of the *Belly*, also after the way of rendering the *Urine*, the *Course of Life*, *Diet*, and several other *Queries*, are necessary to give us a farther and more certain Insight. A large *Meal-like Settling*, gives Notice of an inward Decay or *Wasting*, and consequently threatens a *Consumption*; yet there are some [and more especially the *Female Sex*, whose Water is seldom so well constituted this way as the *Man's*] who lead an *unactive Life*; *Feeding* and *Sleeping* much, that scarce ever make any other, yet seem not to lose their *Flesh* [at least do not at present] but rather grow still more *Corpulent* and *Unweildy*. One also, under a *Fit of the Cholick* [especially the same going off] shall make a *high-colour'd lixivial Urine*;

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and in small quantity too, as does another in the *Dropfy*. He who has taken *Rhubarb*, shall be deem'd the same Day, upon only seeing his Urine, to have the *Jaundice*; and every body knows, that a common blistering Plaster apply'd to the Neck, shall give most exquisite Pains in the Bladder, occasioning *Strangury*, *bloody Water*, *Slime and Skins*, like those from an Ulcer or Stone in the said part. But why do I spend time upon a Subject, about which none of you are proper Judges, or of which you have scarce any, at least no right *Idea's*? The Artist knows all this to be strictly true, and he who tells you otherwise [or that by his particular Knowledge this way, he can find out all your Distempers; the several Parts affected; whether it be a Man's, Woman's, or Child's Water; whether a Woman be with Child; may still farther [as you see some have done] whether of a Boy or Girl; with twenty other lying Stories and Fooleries of another kind] intends only to cheat you at best of your Money, and 'tis odds [if trusting farther to his Judgment] he bereave you not of Life.

Fourthly and Lastly, Having spoken so much of other Matters in some wise thereunto related, I hope there will be need now of the less Caution, if any, that you take care you are not drawn in by a

or *Merry-Andrew*, as he is called by you, upon a *Mountebank's Stage*, where you are in double danger of having your Pocket pick'd, either by the lesser Knave and much honefter Craftsman below in the Crowd, whilst you are gaping at the Tumbler, or listening to the Fool's Dialogue; or by the Greater above in the Laced Coat or Cloak, who tells you not one Word of Truth in his fulsomely repeated Story of the great Virtues of each particular Medicine in his Budget, which if you rightly understood, you would not [in the common Phrase] give unto the Dog you had any regard to; nor has he truly any other Design at the Bottom, than by his gawdy Tinsel Appearance, like the stroling Comedians, to amuse your outward Senses, whilst with his poor dull Rhetorick, he is flourishing you out of your inward, I mean your Intellects, in order to put off a Parcel of most unwholsome Trash, made up into Packets, which tho' in Truth and Reality good for nothing, unless to make you Sick or Lame, and so consequently more Work for the Physician or Surgeon, he would have you believe will cure you all of Sicknes or Lameness, and save you the Charge of both. By naming the *Comedian*, I was put in Mind of a Set of those People I

have heard of, who making no Earnings of their Play, alter'd their *Farce*, and being dress'd for the Work, [the Doctor in his fine laced Cloak, another like a Jack-Pudding, others in Liveries, personating his Worship's Servants] at another Country Market they had a Stage built up, and sold as many Packets the first Hour or two of their Entrance upon this new Contrivance, as they expected they must have been a whole Day in putting off. These Remedies were only three several Powders in one *Packet*, the first a little Chalk, call'd their *White*; the second, a Brickbat finely sifted, called their *Red*; and the third, a piece of Charcoal, finely powder'd after the same manner, call'd the *Æthiopian* or black Powder, which were all to have their several Shares in curing their dear Countrymen [who stood in much more need of worming or cutting out their Eye-Teeth] of all their Distempers; and after which, the simple Multitude ran a Madding in such manner, that no one reckon'd himself now safe who had not perhaps half a Dozen *Packets* in Possession, his Worship giving out, he was going the Week following to attend upon some great Prince who had sent for him Abroad; so that now or never was the Time to come into Possession of this invaluable Treasure.

To

To the same Purpose is the Story of our Mad E— of R—, who [to show the Easiness of our common People to be taken by these Guiles] himself in one of his Frolicks, putting on his Velvet Jacket [much used in those Days by the Mountebanks] ascends the Stage, and being Master of a smooth Tongue, could in this way have taken what Money he pleas'd, and sold off a common *Tincture of Saffron* for an *Aurum potabile* [prepar'd for the Good still of the Publick] at a good round Price.

To this Gang belongs the middle Form of these *Physic-Pedlers*, those who ride about our Streets on Horseback, and the lowest, the poor Rogues on Foot, with their Trumpeters to gather the Crowd, to whom they sell a little Pitch and Rosin daubed over a brown Paper for their outward Maladies of all sorts, and a Horse Purge, as I have remark'd before, for all their inward. Upon these, I say [the very Dregs of Mankind] I shall not enlarge, there being few, I hope, so weak, to be taken in this Snare, comparatively with the rest; and to conclude, if what I have already deliver'd to them in the foregoing Pages, will not suffice to forewarn them of the Danger, I shall, however, have this Satisfaction to my self, that the

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Consequence will not rest at my Door, who never pretended to find them better Understandings, only plain Arguments to work on those they have already. Yet farther to take away all Obstacles of this Nature, and to show them where they may be safe in their several Distresses, and not be imposed on by some empty Show or vain Pretension, I shall here [as I first promis'd] insert an exact List of the several Members of the *Royal College of Physicians in London*, as I find them upon the last printed Catalogue, by Order of the *Worshipful President* and the *Learned Censors*, with the several Places of their Residence or Habitations, which was perfectly unnecessary as to *Apothecaries* and *Surgeons*, the former keeping open Shops in all parts of the Town; the latter, tho' more private, having Signs with their Names, by which they are commonly as well known to all those who stand in need of their Assistance.

P O S T S C R I P T.

U Pon supervising the foregoing Treatise, I find, through some Occasion or other, in almost every Page, I have been obliged to make use of the Words *Quack* and *Empiric* [for I take them promiscuously

miscuously the one for the other] so that some Persons might reasonably have expected, I should first of all have laid down my own particular Definition thereof; to comply with which, altho' the same happen'd to be postpon'd, I have here in my own way, enter'd such Explication.

First then, strictly speaking, I call him a *Quack*, who having been bred up to a Mechanic Employment, or it may be to none at all, does after, with some *Receipts*, left to, or given him, or taken out of a Book of Physick, set up for a Doctor or Surgeon, printing of Bills, and pretending therein to the Cure of any one or more Diseases.

Secondly, in a somewhat larger Sense I call him a *Quack*, who altho' possibly he may have liv'd a Year, two, or three, with one or other of the Profession, yet after quits the same, at least lies by, till finding no other way of subsisting, with this pitiful Stock of Knowledge, he amuses some ignorant People whom he preys on; but being fully conscious of his own Insufficiency to pass Muster, declines the qualifying himself according to the Rules of that Body of Men, of which at first he was intended a Member, endeavouring to screen himself by some B——'s or A—— B——'s License, from their Resentments.

Thirdly,

Thirdly, in a yet larger, I count him no better, who having been legally bred up, does after, upon some fraudulent, selfish, or other sinister Prospect, so far dishonour his Profession, as, *Quack-like*, to set forth *Advertisements* for selling of some particular Medicines; nay, in Truth, of all the rest he is the most inexcusable, since he knows [at leastwise should] that no Remedy this way distributed, without farther Knowledge of the Patient, or Enquiry into his Condition, can be so order'd, but that in the main, it will do abundantly more Harm than Good; whereas the other, through direct Ignorance of Human Bodies, and the manner of the Operation of Medicines therein, are little or nothing apprised of this Truth.

Fourthly and Lastly, *Cosin-German* to a *Quack* is every Man, who being brought up to any single Branch of the Profession, whether *Physick*, properly so denominated, *Pharmacy* or *Chirurgery*, intermeddles in all three, to the Prejudice of some of the rest, and to the Scandal in general of the honest Practice of *Physick*; for altho' in the Beginning or Infancy thereof, it was customary for the same Person to preside over the whole as a single Province, yet since Mankind were so multiplied, and especially in large Cities and Towns, the
Work

Work was found too much for one, or the same Practitioner, to dress Wounds, set broken Bones, make up Medicines, consult with, and direct for the Sick, and therefore with great Wisdom have our Ancestors made a Tripple or Threefold Division thereof; and our Kings and Princes granted unto each their several *Charters* for their better Government, with such Privileges and Immunities also unto each Society, as they have thought fit or meet; so that each Transgressor thereof may be now look'd on as a kind of *false Brother* by the rest, and [setting aside the Skirts of the Town, with all Country Villages, where no better or other Help is at hand, and where each sets up for an *Ambi* or [if I might coyn a Word] a *Tri-dexter*] a Trespasser also on the Law of Nature, *i. e.* doing as he would not willingly be done unto.

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SOME



SOME
REMARKS
UPON
Dr. *Hancock's* Treatise,
Which he entitles
Febrifugum Magnum.

In a LETTER to Himself.

SIR,



Understanding from the Publisher of the foregoing Sheets, that the same were upon Reprinting, I desir'd his Interest with the Author, for the Liberty of tacking a few Leaves, by way of Answer to some Passages in your *Febrifugum Magnum*.

As it was his Design to expose *Ignorant* and *Knaveish* Persons, running out of their proper Callings, and pretending from *Re-*
ceipt

ceipt Books, with a false Shew of Learning, great Knowledge, and Reasoning, to set up for *Physicians*, and to warn the People from being deluded by them; so I thought I could not do a more acceptable piece of Service, than in like manner, to give them Caution, that they enter not too precipitately into your extravagant Notions.

Nor let it appear strange, that I have number'd you among those *Quacks*, since I find you are, however one of more Letters, yet, in *Physick* as ignorant, and a more dangerous *Empirick* than any of them all; having this Advantage, that whilst they openly pretend to make a Gain thereby, your self, under Shew of *godly Simplicity*, abstracted from all sinister Views of Profit, work more on the unthinking Part of Mankind, and may be said to lay a Snare for their Ruin.

'Tis true, you tell them at the Beginning, *that you wrote only for your self, that you are no Physician, and but a Smatterer in Philosophy; and at the Conclusion, acknowledge it is out of your way to write Physick, having nothing more to alledge for your so doing, than that you are not alone in writing a Book about what you know little or nothing of; and through the Body of the same, instead of Demonstration, amuse*

them only by these Phrases. *That you verily believe, but have no Experience, that you think so however, and are pretty well satisfy'd, that you are very well satisfy'd, having cause to think, that you have some Reason to believe, that you do really believe, that you suppose it probable, that you are almost confident, and farther declare, you have had perhaps some silly Notions, and have said some Things foolishly.*

Yet notwithstanding these and the like Turns of Expression, in almost every Page of your said Book: by an affected Shew of Reading, and quoting many celebrated Authors, canvassing their Opinions, with a *Smattering*, as you truly call it, of their Terms, the Reader is induced to believe you have made your self Master of the Science; and that your Modesty only has occasion'd your delivering your self in these ambiguous Terms.

But, good Sir, If your Book was written only for your self, how came you to publish it; for I never heard it got abroad by Stealth, or against your Will? Could it not suffice you to have enjoy'd your Whimsy at home, without setting both Town and Country thus a madding after a *new-fangled Opinion*, and trying Experiments on their Friends and Relations,

very often, I am persuaded, to their Destruction?

Your *Eulogy* of cold Water, which is the common Drink of the much greater part of Mankind, as an excellent *Ptisan*, to dilute the Blood in many Cases, and to repress the inordinate Motion of the Spirits in some others, had been no ways discommendable, Allowance always made to *Habit* or *Custom*, call'd as you know, a *second Nature*; to the Condition of the Solids over tense or lax, together with the Force of the *Primum Mobile*, the Heart, discoverable in the Pulse, with the Degrees of Cohesion in the Blood, and the Dispense of the nervous Fluid therefrom. But to make the same the grand *Febrifuge*, indiscriminately in all Fevers, without regard to these, must be surely the Effect of a *Delirium*, or the Result of *Dotage*: Which Belief of ours is farther countenanc'd by some *Enthusiastick* Strains in other Places of the same Performance; such I mean as these, *where you are persuading the good Woman to leave your Child to the cold Water and Providence: and committing your self to the stew'd Prunes, with the same.*

I have been told by some that your Notions of the Excellencies of cold Water, have been founded upon a *Parable*

in one part of the *New Testament*, and a *Metaphor* in another; but then methinks you should have consider'd whose Advice it was to your Predecessor *Timothy*, to *drink no longer Water, but to put in a little Wine for the Stomach Sake, and his often Infirmities*. St. Paul, 'tis to be suppos'd, being unacquainted with the Cordial Vertue of warm Water and a Toast, but having experienc'd possibly himself, at leastwise read, that it was *Wine which would refresh the weary'd Soul, and which made glad the Heart of Man*, gave this Precept to honest *Timothy*.

But waving this, we will come to Particulars.

Cold Water, you tell us, is the best Remedy in *Fevers*, especially those attending the *Small Pox, Measles, &c.* *Where the Life of the Game* (that is, at the Play call'd the *Small Pox*) *is to quell the Fever, as you verily believe, in all others, and if this be done, you dare almost engage, &c.*

But are you sure, Doctor, (for surely in a Matter of this vast Moment, tho' you are thus dispos'd to play with human Life, we ought to have somewhat more than *almost your Engagement*) that by attempting thus at sometimes, and under some Circumstances, we may not happen

to put out the *Lamp*, and then the *Life of the Game* must end in the Death of the poor Patient.

We are told by Physicians, that *Life consists in a due and orderly Circulation of the Blood; and that a Fever is an encreased Velocity, or disorderly Motion therein.* Now as in some States of this *Fluid*, and its containing Vessels at these times, a Draught of *cold Water* may happen to do no Mischief, yet there are others, wherein it cannot safely be admitted; and surely there is a *Medium* necessary to be observ'd in the Physical Administration.

If some, through Prepossession of *Malig-nity*, seizing the Spirits, in order to fortify *Nature*, as they imagine, have run into an extreme *hot Regimen*; must we, to miss that Rock, split upon its opposite, an exceeding *cold one*, or to avoid *inflaming*, extinguish the *Fever*, and the *vital Flame* together? When the House is in danger of being burnt down, we may throw in as much Water, as we can; but if the Kitchen Fire only burns too briskly, and we are minded to be good Husbands of the Fuel, withdraw a little of the same, or pour on so much only, as will keep it within the desired Bounds.

As the *Pulse*, rightly apprehended, is the best *Index* to the *Regimen*, together

with the time of the Fever; so hence we learn, that as there may be such, when a Glass of *cold Water* may do no hurt, there is another, when one of *Wine* may not only be allow'd, but is requir'd; in the timing of which *Regimen*, whether *hot* or *cold*, consists the main Point, which you are pleas'd to call the *Life of the Game*: and not in *quelling* of the *Fever*, abstracted from preparing the Matter, or carrying off the same, in such manner as *Nature* indicates: who if left to her self however at some times, would make very indifferent Work of it; and who frequently wants the *Spar* as well as *Bridle*, to bring the feverish Heat to such Standard, as the Distemper shall require: by which you might have been inform'd, that as at one time my *Glass of Wine* would be the means of aggravating the Symptoms, so may yours of *cold Water*, at another, be also fatal as a Draught of Poyson.

Fevers, you own, are *ticklish Things*; I suppose you mean full of Uncertainty, as also Danger, in their Nature and Events: Yet it seems the Sick has no more to do, but instead of consulting the *Physician*, or his Assistant the *Apothecary*, to send away to the *Cistern*, or to the *Pump*, for a good Draught of *cold Water*: Whence, since the Publication of *Febrifugum Magnum*, I

have

have known two poor Creatures, as absolutely hurry'd out of the World, as if you, in another Station, had done the Office of an *Executioner* for them.

You tell us, that the *Fever* must be remov'd by Sweating; and that *cold Water* will promote this Sweat: but were we to grant this, is there no Time of preparing the Matter, to be carry'd off by such Evacuation? If you have no Notion of the *Coëta non cruda* mention'd by *Hippocrates*, thus to be sent forth, give us leave (who pretend only to be *Nature's Ministers*, not her *Masters*) to follow her Steps, and time such her Evacuations; lest whilst she (having a Matter to deal withal, incapable of perspiring) is providing for the Discharge by some other Outlet, than the Pores of the Skin (which is frequently the Case in *Critical Fluxes*) we pervert the more suitable *Secretion*, and putting aside this her Intention, destroy the Sick: All Fevers, you know, or should know, having their Seasons or Times of *Beginning*, *Augment*, *State* and *Declension*, are in each, to be differently regarded, as is particularly manifest in that of the *Small Pox*, where the forcing an intempestive Sweat, like yours, too early, or before the previous Separation of the diseasy Matter, call'd by Physicians the *morbid Particles*,

cles, which is solely her own Work, would be so far from the *Life of the Game*, unless that were to consist in the Death of the Patient, that it must in all likelihood be his Destruction; the same in all others, there being very few truly *Critical* or Salutary Sweats, to be obtain'd thus early; but it seems whether *Critical* or *Symptomatical*, is alike to you; if you can but make them sweat, all is to go well; or being disappointed, we are to pour in more Water, till the Fever is quell'd, or the Flame extinguish'd. In this indeed we must own you run counter to old Nurse, who with a *Load of Bedcloaths, close Curtains, Sack and Saffron, Treacle and Mithridate*, strives thus unseasonably to bring out a Sweat, which being for some time unable to procure, she goes on, till the miserably sick Person is all on Fire, and burnt as we may say, to Death. Whilst you on the other, are for drowning the Fever first at once; not by throwing him into the Water, but this latter into him, where the Fever and the Water are to struggle for a Victory; and if through the Strength of Nature, as in other Cases of dangerous and doubtful Experiments, try'd the same way, the *Mastery*, as the common People phrase it, is obtain'd, or a *Critical* Sweat happens to break forth, and

and rescue the Patient, the *cold Water* bears away the Bell; but if she is too languid to rouse and shake off the Enemy, or the Fever and Life together put to Flight, yet have the Deceased and his Friends this Comfort, that if he dy'd not *secundum Artem*, however by the Direction of a Reverend Divine.

Thus, Sir, you see it is very apparent, that both *Psychrophilus* and *Pyrophilus*, for I know you must be a *Scholar*, by the Title of your Treatise, can do Execution in their Turns, the one equally with the other.

You have given Proof of your great Reading, in citing many learned Writers on this Subject of Fevers; but, have happen'd to overlook the best, at least the safest Guide to us therein, I mean *Lommius*, who wrote almost two Centuries past, but has been lately reviv'd by the Direction of a famous Physician, now living. Had you consulted this good old Author, you might have inform'd your self when your *Febrifuge* might be serviceable, and when pernicious, in speaking whereof, he delivers himself thus, as you will find in his said Book *De Curandis Febris continuis, Sectio Tertia, Cap. 2^m. Pagina 172^a.*

“ *Aqua,*

“ *Aqua, frigida est, atque humida, par-*
 “ *tiumque crassarum; Ea itaque cum intro*
 “ *sumitur, difficulter concoquitur, diuque in*
 “ *ventre, antequam per Corpus digeratur,*
 “ *inhærescit; quare neque incidit quidquam,*
 “ *neque terget sed neque Album ducit, neque*
 “ *urinam ciet, aut transpirationem, quæ per*
 “ *Cutem fit, impellit. Hæc cum Aqua ha-*
 “ *beat, videtur profecto pro Materia conco-*
 “ *quenda dari nunquam posse; adeoque nul-*
 “ *lum locum incipientibus, incrementibus.*
 “ *que febribus, habere. Neque enim Re-*
 “ *frigerij Causa, si non ob Materiae concocti-*
 “ *onem, tum recte frigida dantur; quoniam*
 “ *hic Refrigerationis fructus melius ab iis*
 “ *petitur rebus, quæ simul refrigerent, si-*
 “ *mul incidant, ac Meatus abstergendo ape-*
 “ *riant, quales superioribus locis proposui.*

And coming to the most proper Time
 of its Exhibition, he proceeds on this
 wise.

“ *Quid Ergo? Quibus demum Febris*
 “ *continuae temporibus, & in quem finem*
 “ *propinanda frigida aqua est? id vero jam*
 “ *nunc sic expediam, ut Doctis Hominibus*
 “ *(inter quos certè D^o. Hancockio) debeam,*
 “ *nisi fallor, videri satisfecisse. Quoniam*
 “ *Cruditatem frigida adauget, Principio,*
 “ *Incrementoque Febrium inutilis est. Nam*
 “ *iis temporibus, nondum absoluta Maturi-*
 “ *tas humori accessit. Sed ne Declinatio*
 “ *quidem*

" quidem exigere frigidam ullo jure potest,
 " cum Morbi exhausta est Materia, ac Vis-
 " cera, ægritudine debilia, neque ingenti-
 " bus amplius affecta, munitaque ardoribus,
 " frigidi Fontis accursu haud difficillime
 " læduntur. Itaque unicum superest, quo
 " dari utiliter aqua possit, Vigoris, tempus,
 " non quidem causa concoctionis promoven-
 " de, quæ tum absoluta est, & ut minimè
 " sit, juvari tamen a frigidâ nequit; sed
 " ut hæc ipsa frigida principium faciat ali-
 " cujus judicatoriæ vacuationis, cum vomi-
 " tûs, atque dejectionis, tum maxime su-
 " doris.

But as yours was intended for the com-
 mon Reader, so should the Answer also
 be suited to his Capacity: Referring you
 therefore, learned Sir, to this Author, for
 your better Instruction, I will proceed
 for his Information, to let him know, that
 this worthy Physician forbids *cold Water*
 to be given either in the *beginning*, or *En-
 crease* of a *Fever*: allowing it principally,
 if not solely in the *State*, or when the same
 is at its Height, when the Matter is
 ready to be carry'd off, by ways fitted
 thereunto. That it is chiefly serviceable
 in the *Choleric* or *Bilious Fevers*, when the
Pulse is strong, the *Patient* young, the *Ha-
 bit* of *Body* vegete or lusty; the *Bowels* free
 from *Obstructions*, the *Season* temperate,
 or

or rather warm, the Patient accusom'd to a sober way of Life, and used to the same.

On the contrary, it is dangerous in the Beginning, where there is a low and weak Pulse, Obstructions of the Viscera, whether from Phlegm or Melancholy, the one termed Oedema, the other Schirrus; and in general if the Sick be either Cachectick, or Hydropick; also where there is Inflammation of the said Parts, whether Phlegmon or Erysipelas in antient People, and Winter Seasons, the Patient moreover accusom'd to Spirituous or hot Liquors.

And thus far you have the Opinion of an honest and skilful Practitioner, as to *Water Drinking*, in continual Fevers: for in those which are *intermitting*, he entirely forbids the same, as you may collect from his own Words here set down.

“ *Atque hætenus de Febris loquor continuis, non autem de intermittentibus:*
 “ *maxime, si has crassus, aut tenax humor*
 “ *creat. Siquidem iis, nullo unquam tem-*
 “ *pore, commodare frigida Aqua potest.*

Yet you, Sir, have the Arrogance to recommend it, even in the *cold Fit*, and tell your Reader that you verily believe it will cure a *Quartan*. What signifies your saying presently after, that *you have no Experience*? Suppose that any shallow Person, and there are many such, relying more on this Belief

Belief of the *Priest*, than the Judgment of the *Physician*, shall miscarry under the Experiment: can you be so favourable a *Casuis*t to your self, as to acquit the *Believer* of an *Homicide*?

Good Sir, reflect a little upon the many Accidents, which may happen by this precipitated Performance of yours, not only in *Fevers*, which you justly remark carry off the greater Number of our People, but in other Diseases, we shall come to presently.

It is an Observation among *Physicians*, that no one dies of an *Intermittent* properly so call'd, unless in the cold *Fit*: for if Nature be strong enough to break the *Cohesion*, and set at liberty the *stagnating Fluids* in the *Capillary Vessels*, so that the Circulation may be carry'd on, the Sick escapes the Danger of that particular *Paroxysm*. But you say the *cold Water* will stir her up, and put her on the utmost Effort, to shake off the Enemy by a Sweat: and I, that hereby she is like to have a farther dead Weight upon her, when you know that a *Vis unita*, may be employ'd, as well to *kill* as *cure*; doubtless if the Difficulty should happen to be surmounted, it will be rather an Argument of her Strength, than her pretended Assistant's Prudence.

This

This Tract of *Lommius* containing only the *Regimen* for the *Febris Continua*, we are at a loss for his Sentiments of others. As to the *Inflammatory*, and particularly the *Quinsy*, *Pleurisy*, *Peripneumony*, the chief Intention is, as you say, to extinguish the Heat. Now these Fevers we find more usually raging in hot Weather, when People after hard Labour or any other Exercise, having over-heated themselves, and impatient thereof, together with the Thirst thereby occasion'd, suddenly expose themselves to the Air, and swallow down large Draughts of *cold* Liquors, among which none more frequently than your *Pan-Pharmakon*: Whence by a sudden constricting of the Pores, the Perspiration impeded, and the Blood intercepted in its regular Motion, through the Organs of Respiration, and other Parts of the Chest, but more particularly the *Membrane* on the Inside thereof called the *Pleura*, these acute and dangerous Symptoms are brought on. When instead of plentiful and repeated *Bleeding*, *Pectorals*, *oily Medicines*, *Volatiles*, and *Diluters*, what so proper (in your Opinion at least) as a *Hair of the same Dog*, a Draught of *cold Water*, to cure the *Fever* and the *Symptoms* too, some way or other (no mat-

ter

ter which) at least to prevent *Abscesses*,
Empyema's, *Gangrenes*, and *Polypus's*.

Did ever any *Doctor*, either in *Divinity* or *Physick*, talk after so wild a Rate before? Whether or no you were asleep or in a Dream, when this Discovery was made, as one of your Opponents takes upon him to prove, or a *Delirium*, the Dream of a Person waking, is not certain; but a most undoubted Proof of your being a meer *Novice* in *Physick*, and but a *Smatterer*, as you have acknowledged, in *Philosophy*.

We come now to the *Eruptive Fevers*, and the *Pestilential*; among the former, accounting the *Small Pox*, *Measles*, *Miliary* and *Scarlet*; to Persons labouring under all which, without Regard to the Strength of the Heart, manifest, as above remark'd, by the Pulse, with the other Conditions there set down, together with the time of Seizure, a Draught of cold *Water* you warrant to be the best *Febrifuge*; being confirm'd by an Instance in your own Family, viz. Your Child, whom you desir'd her Mother to leave to your self and Providence, whatever might fall out, to whom you very wisely gave a small *Glass*, not daring to give a large one, as not knowing what might happen upon it.

N

Query,

Query, Whether this favours not of as rank *Enthusiasm* as it is possible, or has more of *Ignorance* in it, or *Presumption*? But it seems the Child recover'd; for had she dy'd, she had been buried, doubtless, with the cold Water in her Belly, and we had heard nothing of this Story: or should another Instance happen of like kind, (and there are, I know, a great many) having no *Rationale* for their Support, this Construction only can be made thereon, that *as there is a sort or kind of this Disease especially, which, as a learned Gentleman of the College has lately remark'd, the Physician cannot cure; so is there another, whom the Nurse, even Nurse H——k, cannot kill.*

The use of *Vomits*, the most serviceable of all other Remedies, especially where indicated by the *Nausea*, attending in the beginning of many Fevers, you know nothing of; no more than of *purging* and *bleeding*; even in those of the *Inflammatory* Kind, your Notion is as childish, believing that as the same can do but little Good, it may, for ought you know, do as little Hurt, and this because no more of the Matter of the Disease can be carry'd off, than what is contain'd in the small Quantity of Blood evacuated: as if Physicians had no other Aim thereby than barely discharging

discharging the Matter of the Disease: and that *Depletion* in general of the Vessels, to make way for a more orderly Motion of the Rest in the remaining Mass; *deriving* the same to some particular Parts, and *revelling* from others, as the *Medical Intention* shall require, were no Advantage, or could be compensated by a Draught of *cold Water*.

In the *pestilential Fever*; had it pleased God to have visited us, as our Neighbours, since the Publication of your *Febrifugum*, he only knows the Lives, for which you might have been accountable by recommending so dangerous an Experiment, which many doubtless had been tempted to try, hearing so good a Man, and worthy a Divine as Dr. *Hancock*, so boldly *asserting, and verily believing it to be the only, at least, the safest Refuge*.

Now in this Distemper, whose *Modus*, after abundance of late Prattle, we know little of, but from its Effects, the Blood seems disposed unto different States; running out into *Cruor*, or condensing to a *Coagulum*: The Secretion of the *nervous Fluid* being impeded in the Brain, the Influence thereof over the whole Animal Machine must cease; the *Pulse* grows weak, the *Blood* moves slow, till being entirely stop'd, the *Heat* is stifled at

the Fountain Head, and the Lamp of Life put out. In others, there are Signs 'tis true, of Inflammation, viz. *intense Thirst, dry Tongue, quick Pulse, Anxiety, Restlessness and Phrensy*: Whence the Intentions vary; and differing *Regimens* may be requir'd: The *Vital* Indication being principally to be regarded, I do not mean by *hot Cordials, or Theriacal Confections*, but such as may best suit the Condition the *Arterial Fluid* undergoes at these Times, and promote the Dispence of the *Nervous*, for keeping on its regular Motion, whereby Nature may be also assisted, in expelling such Particles, as being longer detain'd, the whole Mass grows putrid, even in a true and literal Sense, and the Patient is inevitably destroy'd thereby.

But what need, say you, of different Prescriptions, or having regard to divers Intentions, being so well assur'd that the *cold Water* answers all? *that it will rarify in the one, condense in the other, and at the same time support languishing Nature under the Conflict, throwing off the Disease in Sweats, which you verily believe, are almost confident, and boldly assert it, will do; nay farther, that it will help forward or promote the Expulsion of Bubo's.*

I question whether or no this Belief of yours has other Foundation than the
Escapes

Escapes of some Persons in Fevers, coveting, and having their Desires gratify'd by those about them, with *cold Water*, and other Liquors. Thus one steals from his Nurse, even in the Height of a *Delirium*, and takes a good Swig of *cold Water* or *Small Beer*, gets to Bed again, where he falls into a Sweat, and happens to recover, though just before *given over*, as they call it, by his Physician: Whilst another guzzles down as much *Cyder*, *Punch*, or his *beloved Wine*, and has the same good Fortune.

Dr. Sydenham tells us of a Person laid out for Dead of the *Small Pox*, and the Body thus expos'd to the cold Air, the concentr'd Heat, that seemed quite extinct, now rouzeth, and the Man revives: But shall these out-of-the-way Recoveries, justify the like Experiments, in Hopes of the same Success? Because one Man falling from a House, like the Cat, lights upon his Feet, and receives no Injury; will Dr. Hancock, how confident soever, assure another the same Deliverance?

'Tis not long since, one of these bold Adventurers, whom I attended in an inflammatory Fever, thus gratify'd his Thirst, from the cold Fountain, and being immediately seized with an Oppression of the *Præcordia*, expir'd in a few

N 3

Hours

Hours after. I wish many others come not to their Ends this way, by the foolish Indulgence of unfaithful Keepers, when the Occasion is industriously conceal'd from us; though escaping, they boast of the Exploit, and give out as confidently, that the Cure was owing rather to the Pursuit of their own Appetites, than the Doctor's Prescriptions.

What shall we say, Sir? *Fevers*, you know, are *tickle Things*, some dying under the best *Regimen*, others recovering under the worst; therefore let us toss up whether they shall have *cold Water* or *hot Wine*.

But are these to be made a Standard of rational Practice? Because one Person in a Fever, by some lucky Incident unforeseen, *vel ex Luto quasi peculiari formatus*, has the good Hap not to be destroy'd by either of the Extremes, shall the Adviser, whether *Fool* or *pretended Physician*, vouch each of them proper Remedies, and be the means of ensnaring others, to the endangering of Life, as your Method, to my Knowledge, has done? and of which indeed, *complaining to a leading Man in the College*, these Errors were like to be committed unknown to us, by some, proselyted to your Doctrine, giving him an Instance at the same Time, of one under my Care, that had been destroy'd by an untimely Draught

Draught of this kind, and of which I had forewarn'd the Patient's Friends, declaring the Danger thereof just before: His Reply was, That he thought the Performance, I mean your Book, was beneath Notice: for as Persons of Sense might see that it was wrote by one, either under, or past the Years of Discretion, and that the Author must be a whimsical Enthusiast he believ'd they would not regard it: and as for the Commonalty, continues he, write what you will, they will credit the Parson rather than you or I; so that there must be some of them sacrificed to his Ignorance, as in all other upstart Opinions, and the Business will drop of Course.

Having spoken what I thought most material, of your Remedy, as a *Febri-fuge*, I shall now touch upon some other of its supposed Excellencies; and first as a *Pectoral*, with its use particularly in *Asthma's*, indiscriminately, or without making any Distinction thereof: and here I find you present us with a most learned *Syllogism*.

That, say you, which gives better Breath to a Man that has no Asthma, may give better Breath to one that has; but Water will give twice (which every body knows is more than once) as good Breath to a

Man for easy walking, as either Wine or Ale. Ergo,

This Phrase of *giving Breath*, is all your own I am satisfy'd; neither *Bellini, Pitcairn, Wainewright*, nay *Sir Isaac* himself, so much as ever dreaming the like: but here I think you are mistaken in the *Non-natural* principally concern'd; for 'tis doubtless the *Air*, if the Phrase is applicable to either, and not the grosser Fluid *Water*, that gives us *Breath*: and of this, that surely gives the best, which is best suited, in its *Rarity* or *Density*, with other Qualities too tedious to insist on here, to the Make of the *Vesiculæ in the Lungs*, the *Degrees of Cohesion in the Parts of the Blood*, and other *Humours*, with the *Spring of the Fibres*, and their *Power of Contraction and Subsidence*, for dilating the *Chest*. Thus some *Asthmaticks* breath best in a *Chimney Corner*, among the *Smoak of Coals*, whilst the *Generality* are choak'd up, as they express themselves, by the same, and bear no other than the open, clear, and thin one of the *Country*, unable to lie, even one *Night*, in *Town*; some love the *Frost*, whilst others long for the advance of the *Sun*, and cannot suffer a *Window or Door* to be open'd, till the approach of *Summer*.

And

And thus far of the Temper of the *Atmosphere* or Air, with the Fabrick of the Lungs, there being another Impediment, owing to the Nature of the Humour therein congested and impacted, which in some is *thick* and *tenacious*, obstructing the *Bronchia*, as most common to *Asthmatick* Patients: in others *thin* and *serous*, constantly dripping down the Wind-Pipe, and exciting thereby very great Disturbance; which is usually the Case of those in the beginning of an obstructed Perspiration, call'd *catching cold*, or the *Catarrh*: Now as in the former the Indication is for *attenuating* or *inciding* the tough and glutinous Humour, named *Phlegm*, for its more easy Expectoration: so in the latter, we must *incrassate*, or bring the Humour to such Consistence, call'd *Concoction*, that the same by the Cough, now less fatiguing, may also be brought up, and the Lungs freed of the Disturbance thereby occasioned.

There is indeed another Affect of the same Parts, which is purely *Convulsive*, and therefore named *Nervous*: which has no Humour attending, unless by some Disorder of the Fluid therein, whence the Influence thereof withdrawn, a sort of Palsy ensues, or by some irregular Dispensation thereof falling out, the Lungs
are

are cramp'd, and the great Affair of *Respiration* both ways incommoded, at sometimes utterly abolish'd, the Patient as it were strangled for want of Breath, a Case equally formidable with the rest.

Now as a Draught of *cold Water* may be well enough suited to one of these, so, to another, it will be prejudicial. *In the hot and dry Temperament, with a thin Defluxion, the Patient not too far advanced in Years, nor used to spirituous Liquors, the Pulse not over-much depress'd; in the hysteric, suffocative, or spasmodick Asthma,* a Draught of *cold Water* is an admirable Remedy, far exceeding one of *Wine*, which in these Cases is detrimental, and would encrease the Malady: But *in the Cold and Phlegmatick with a Lentor in the Blood, the Hydropick, in antient People, with a low, weak, and scarce perceptible Pulse, continually accusom'd to the sipping of strong Waters, the like Julap may over-set:* so that at this Juncture, a little *Wine* for the Lungs sake, as well as that of the Stomach, should be admix'd; at least, good Sir, for once, suffer a *burnt Crust* to be put into the Water, to correct the Crudity, some time before; and at the time of Drinking, one of your own Toasts *thin sliced, very well brown'd, and tender baked* (as they cry Ox Cheek) clap'd

clap'd hot into the Glass, especially in cold Weather, to allay, not the *potential*, but the *actual* Chill thereof, and thus much of the *Asthma*.

In respect to *walking for a Wager, with a Pint of cold Water in your Stomach*, I never try'd it. To a Person in good Health, and temperate in his Life, it may possibly do better, than to set out with so much Wine: Custom at these times, as well as others, must not be overlook'd. But were I to walk with you, till we (being on equal Foot as to Strength and all other Points) were both walk'd down and spent, at our Journey's End you should have half a Pint, or a Pint if you pleas'd, of the same Cordial, being now warm'd, and a Toast according to your own Heart's Desire, nicely cut, and curiously brown'd as aforesaid, whilst I took the like Quantity of Palm Canary, or other generous Wine, and being both of us thus refresh'd, we would return, he that got home first, or held out best, being intituled to the Stakes.

This Discovery of the refreshing Vertues of *warm Water*, is, I must own, a notable Invention, and would save poor People, who lay out, great Part of their Hire at these times, in strong Liquors, much Money surely. But the Difficulty,
I fear,

I fear, is to convince one of these poor labouring Fellows, their wasted Spirits can be thus recruited, after a hard Day's Work, or when *hot and thirsty, faint or languid* through the same : I dare say these silly Creatures would be ready to fly in your Face, should you preach this Doctrine at the *Keys* or *Ware-houses* of Merchants, (where they are at work, with heavy Burdens on their Shoulders, or craning up their Goods) and tell you, you may keep your Water, both *cold* and *hot*, for your own Use ; or work but a few Hours, as they do, and then try the Experiment : for they are sure it would either kill them downright, or surfeit them, not knowing, *that if it should be but a small Surfeit, they may cure themselves with a Dram or two of Brandy, but if a bad one, they must drink more Water.*

Next of the Use of the same for *Coughs* and *Colds*, which is to spoil the Trade of the poor *Physick-Pedlers*, selling *Lozenges* about Streets for the same ; and here I perceive, like the Antients, you are infected with the *Deliramenta Catarrhi*, more excusable indeed in you, if you were asleep, than in those awake, and out of a *Delirium* : that is deeming the Head a sort of an *Alembick*, at least the Top of one, where the Vapors ascending from the

the lower Parts, are condens'd, and passing by the Nose, fall back upon the Lungs occasioning this troublesome Cough: to intercept which, *taking hold it seems of the End of your Snout, you thought to secure the Bellows, wisely preferring a sore Nose to sore Lungs:* not suspecting all the while you were thus playing on the *Bag-Pipe*, you were at the Sport call'd *Labour in vain*: or that the Rheum coming down by the Nose, is separated by the Glandules of its investing Membrane, and that dripping along the Wind-Pipe, by its own proper Glandules also: so that had you wrung your Nose, as the wise Man says in his Proverbs, *till you had drawn forth Blood*, nay had you forced the same off, the Secretion by these last had not been lessen'd thereby.

. Why a *Pippin* sliced, raw, or one that is roasted, should prejudice the Water at these Times, on account of the Acid communicated thereto, especially a little Sugar-candy first dissolved therein, as is customary at these Times, and an admirable *Ptisan*, for some labouring under a thin Defluxion, is not easily reconciled: nor can I see especially, why you should be so fearful of it, who having a *Breach*, as you say, in your Lungs, could dispense with the Juice of Lemon, when you could not bear

bear any thing potentially hot, not so much as the potential Heat of a Dish of Sage Tea.

Here, I am apt to think, you forgot your self, as Folks call it, and meant the *actual*, which was most hazardous, as in all *Hemorrhages* whatever: for the *potential* Heat of Sage Tea could never hurt you: but the sovereign *Balm*, preferable even to that of *Gilead* it self, for healing of this Breach, I find is yet behind, being the casual Result of a Consultation (providentially doubtless) betwixt your Lady and your self, I mean the stew'd Prunes, under which, among your *Physical Receipts*, (the World perhaps at one time or other may be bless'd with) I doubt not but you have taken Care to write *Probatum est*.

But, dear Sir, give me leave to ask one Question for Information: What is the *Rationale* or Ground you go upon, for this Practice? or is it by *Tradition*; as the old Women act upon the like Occasions, without Regard to Indications, or Knowledge of any Properties in the Remedies they prescribe? for spitting of Blood, we are told, ariseth from diverse Causes, such as a *Fault in the Blood it self, its over-bearing Heat, Tenuity or Acrimony, as also in the containing Vessels*, which are call'd by hard Names, as *Diapedisis, Rhexis* and
Dia-

Diabrosis. These, you know, Sir, are *Greek* Words; tho' I have put them into *Latin* Characters, as easier, both written and read too, by many People; as for their Meaning, we will leave that to the Scholars, your self I am certain cannot want an Interpreter. I desire only to know for which of these Indications the Prunes were given you by your Spouse, or taken by your self: for besides that of cooling the Body, or supplying the Place of a Glyster, I can find out none. They could do little in correcting any feverish Excandescence, or Ebullition in the Blood, or increassate its Substance, much less act as a *Styptick*, or agglutinate the Breach, which are the Principal at these Times.

But you will say you committed your self to *Providence*, as well as *Prunes*; in which, doubtless, you did well, and had been justifiable, if no other Remedy had been procurable: yet then, like the same good Man, you should have ascrib'd the stopping of the Breach to *Providence*, and not to the *Prunes*, which, notwithstanding your verily Believing, or Assurance either, to the contrary, had little Share therein; as those who may think fit to try the Experiment upon this very childish Recommendation of yours, will, I doubt not, find, perhaps also to their undoing,

doing, if relying wholly thereon; and as one I have been lately call'd to, has, upon my own Knowledge: Whose Bleeding, to borrow one of your Phrases, I *am almost persuaded*, might have been in time restrain'd, with fewer Drams of a better Medicine, I mean the *Bark*, than he took Pounds of *Prunes*: and the attending *Hætick*, before its too great Advance, retriev'd, by the use of *Absorbents* and *Assè's Milk*, whose Excellencies in tempering the Blood at these Times, I perceive, by some odd Hints, you are as little appris'd of.

We come now to the *Colick*, which Distemper, I find the Author of the *Medicinal Impostor* aforegoing, has distinguish'd to my Hand, into diverse Kinds, as the *Bilious*, *Hysterick*, *Phlegmatick*, *Flatulent*, *Nephritick*; and shew'd also, that what happens to be a Remedy in the one, may prove exceedingly mischievous in some of the rest. So that if you would have had your Readers to have try'd your Experiments, you ought to have given them some Light into this Matter, unless you verily believe, and are *not only almost, but altogether persuaded, that cold Water will cure all*.

If any one, you say, troubled with a Fit of the *Colick*, would drink a Quart of cold

cold Water, and keep his Body in a moving Posture.

Pardon me, good Sir, before I proceed ; as you have put a very wise Question to the Physicians, whether they ever cur'd a Patient of the *Small Pox* or *Measles*, when the *Small Pox* and *Measles* never appeared? so to be even, I offer this to you, if ever you visited one under colick Pains, that could lie still? Do they not tumble and toss about, just as you advise, sometimes to one side of the Bed, sometimes to the other, lean forward, lean backward? &c. Yes, you'll say, but they don't stand on their Heads, or ride about the Streets in Coaches, to settle the *Peristaltick Motion* of the Bowels.

But how confident soever you are of the Success, having never try'd it your self, till we see your Reverence thus at *Gambols* on your Head, with your Heels in the Air, or at *See-Saw* upon a Log, with a Quart of cold Water in your Guts, to settle *Peristaltick*, we must suspend our Belief, notwithstanding its Properties of diluting, cooling, mollifying, much better than the hot sulphurous Waters, that bake the Humours, occasioning the same, and rendering them much more difficult to expel.

O

Here,

Here, Sir, you have betray'd the most gross Ignorance that ever Man did, it being confirm'd to us, by daily Experience, that we have not so noble a Remedy, in the *cold, stubborn, pituitous*, also in some *nervous Colicks*, as these Waters you are finding Fault with, drank warm from the Pump: nor in many of the *Inflammatory*, in the *Nephritick*, usually of that Kind, or in the *Vitreous* and *Phlegmatick*, a more hazardous one, than *cold Water*: so that unless in some *bilious, flatulent*, or *hysterick*, where the same is suited to allay the Effervescence of the *Bile*, and reduce the Outrage of the Spirits, it is not allowable.

In the common *windy Colick*, when, by Force of the Convulsion, the inferiour part of the Intestine is drawn up into the Superiour, which the common People call the *twisting of the Guts*, the *peristaltick* Motion is entirely inverted, and the Patient sometimes, through the Violence thereof, casts up his Excrements by the Mouth: Whence the *Medical Intention* is first, of all, to take off the Irritation, and then by some brisk *Cathartick*, or *sharp Clyster*, to invite Nature to exonerate the right way. If the Disease continues, some have given, I do not say a Quart, but a quarter of a Pint or more of
Quick-

Quicksilver, advising the Patient to stand, by no means on his *Head*, but his *Feet*, or to walk about a few Turns in his Chamber, that by the Weight of the Medicine, this Inversion may be taken off: but I dare say, no Man before your self, ever dream'd that standing on the Head, was the way to stay the Vomiting, open the Obstruction, or persuade Peristaltick to remove downwards.

I have heard indeed of those, who having taken in too much Water by falling into the same, were held up by the Heels, that it might run out at their Mouths; but never before now, of any set upon their Heads, that the same might be discharged by their Fundaments.

In all of the *Inflammatory* Kind, not speedily taken off, the Tragedy ends usually in a Gangrene of the *Guts*; so that in one Sense, your *Prognostick*, confidently declaring it would do the Work, I mean a Quart of *cold Water*, might be strictly verify'd, the same now working as certain Destruction, as an Ounce of *Opium*.

Having just before observ'd the *Nephritick Colick*, I shall speak next of the *Stone*: but here also our Author of the Quack has saved us the Labour of distinguishing this Disease, and its Remedies, which are to be of one Sort, *viz. cleansing*

or *deterging* out of the Fit ; and under the same, *demulcing*, *softening* or *relaxing* : How far Water in general, used *prophylactically*, may secure from the Disease, is not the Dispute here ; but that there are *petrifying* Waters, as well as *tartarous Wines* and other Liquors, thereunto disposing, is manifest to any one, who will (as Dr. *Mead* observes, remarking poisonous Springs, in his *Essays of Poysons*) look into the Tea-Kettles of our Gentlewomen.

At *Paris*, he says, it is observed of the River *Sein*, that the Pipes through which the Water is carry'd, are in time incrustated, and stop'd up by them ; and that the Inhabitants are more subject to the Stone than most other Cities. But let the Water be never so pure, the *actual* Coldness thereof must be detrimental to a Person under a Fit of the Stone, unless you can prove that *cold Water relaxes*, and takes off the Tension of the Fibres, more than that which is *warm* ; or is endued with a more lubricating Virtue, by which the ragged Stone impacted in the tender *Ureters*, may with more Ease or Facility descend into the Bladder, which is the chief physical Intention at this Juncture.

The next we shall speak to, shall be those of the *Rheumatism* and *Gout*, where
if

if you only hint, that the use of *Water* would better preserve from these Distempers, than *Wine* or *Malt Liquors*, I readily join Issue, that a light and pure Element of this kind, free from *metallick* Particles, and *mineral* Salts of all Kinds, (not those from Wells or Pumps as with us) may prove the better Liquor to quench Thirst, and answer the other Ends of a *Vehicle*, to convey the grosser Parts of our Aliment through the several *Canals*: but under a Fit of the Disease, which is *inflammatory* like them, I take it to be as hazardous as in the *Quinsy*, or *Pleurisy* before-mention'd, notwithstanding your Reverence's contrary Belief: so far from dissolving the Viscosity or *Sizines* in the Blood, and taking off the Tention of the membranous Parts thereby arising, as to increase them, together with the farther Obstructions of the Blood Vessels. But having ty'd my self up to two or three Sheets of Paper, it must not be expected I should lay down a *Regimen* of Practice, where I intended only to refute some Errors therein: To go on with which

In respect to the *Gout*, as I thank a kind Providence I know nothing of it, by Experience in my self, so neither from the Writings of Physicians, nor my own Observations on those therewith afflicted,

have I yet been able to form such an Idea of its Essence, as will justify any certain Method of Practice: altho' I am not unacquainted with many boasted Remedies, some trifling and ridiculous, some dangerous, and all uncertain; so that my Judgment centers here, *viz.* that the Joints being, as I may say, the proper *secretory Organs*, or the *Loca naturaliter deponenda*, of the peccant Matter of the Disease, or which is there separated and laid down, the best way for the poor Patient at these times, is to practise as much as possible, the Virtue entitling him to that Name, till the same being perspired, the Parts again recover their enfeebled Tone; for unless we could destroy the *Fomes* of the Distemper, Nature is by no Means to be interrupted, in her Discharge thereof upon the extreme Parts. And as no one dies thereof, at least rarely, whilst the same is here situate; so no one is safe in trying of Experiments, either to divert the Fit, or derive the Matter thereof, by other ways: Whence it seems to me, that the *vital Indication* is the principal, if not the sole Intention to be regarded by the Physician, lest a *Metastasis*, which I doubt not, Sir, you very well understand, being a dignify'd Clergyman, should ensue, and the Malady here disturb'd fly
back

back to the *Head*, at once eclipsing the animal Functions; to the *Breast*, and there as fatally cramping the Organs of *Respirations*. The *Stomach* or *Bowels*, and there acting as fatal a Tragedy, by the Convulsions of the same: When alas! What would not the now more miserable Sufferer give, to compound for a Return of his old Adversary, by cutting, burning, or other Torture of his Limbs, it being so much better, as you have phrased it *in the wringing of the Nose, to have a sore Toe, than a sore Head, Breast, or Belly?*

But you tell us, *you are pretty well satisfy'd, that a good Dose of cold Water would have the same Effect, as generous Wines; absorbing the gouty Salts, perspiring some, and lodging the rest on the extreme Parts, more than any hot Medicines.*

Good God! that any one who was not under the Discipline of *Straw, Stripes, and a Bedlam Management*, should even propose an Experiment, as fatal in its Consequence, as keeping the Patient a quarter of an Hour under Water, or suspending him in the Air, for as long time, with a Roap about his Neck.

Alas! Sir, if a poor deluded Wretch, not capable of fathoming this *Sameness* of *Wine* and *Water*, in their Effects, the

Philosophy of absorbing the gouty Salts, perspiring some, and sending others about their Business, or to their old Quarters, should, upon your being thus pretty well satisfy'd with its Excellencies, take down the deadly Draught, and go off the Stage convulsed, as in likelihood might fall out; would your telling his Relations, you spoke it only in the way of Speculation, make Atonement for the Homicide? Or does your Pretext of Soul-saving authorize your Destruction of its Domicel, to set that at liberty?

You tell us indeed *you have talked foolishly of this Distemper*, as I think of all the rest, but there may be those equally foolish, to believe you for your *Cloth* sake, being an antient and reverend Divine, under whose Directions, they may be apt to think themselves safer, giving Advice out of Charity, and taking nothing of them, than the Physicians, who make them pay for it; but to proceed a little farther upon this Subject.

If *Vander Heiden*, you say, recommends *cold Water* to preserve from the Gout, you conclude, if he judge right, to dip the *Hands and Feet* of gouty Persons, cannot be bad, the gouty Matter flying to the Parts, where the Skin is soften'd, the capillary Arteries cool'd and moisten'd, and render'd
more

more open to evacuate the Humours. As to which, if *Vander Heiden* recommended cold Water Dipping, as a *Preservative from*, it was on an opposite View of *hardening, constringing, and repelling* the Humours from these Parts, and implies not that it will be safe *at the time of the Paroxysm.*

Yet whatever might be *Vander's* Thoughts, or whether he *thought right or wrong* they are mine, that wherever the Seed of this Disease lies hid, *cold Water* cannot be safe at any time, much less if the Ferment was stirr'd up, and about to shew it self, when I should of the two, rather direct the Patient to dip both his Hands as well as his Feet, into that which was warm, in hopes of inviting the Matter to these Parts, for fear, as I observ'd but now, it should fall on those more noble: and that this Intention is answered by hot, not cold Water, is evident to all but *Dr. Hancock*, who know'tis the Property of the latter to *harden the Skin, shut up the Pores, and drive back the inflowing Humour*: but you, it seems, upon Occasion, can run counter to Reason and Philosophy; and to serve a Turn, blow *hot or cold*: can make hot Water *repel, indurate or harden*, whilst cold shall *attract, attenuate, relax or mollify.*

And

And this will naturally lead me to speak a few Words, I hope not unseasonably, upon the Affair both of *Water-Drinking*, and *Water-Dipping*, as well *hot* as *cold*. The Requisites to which, at least such as should encourage Physicians to recommend them, are Matters of that vast Moment, and sometimes difficulty to come at, that they may be reckon'd as *tickle* Things, (pardon, good Sir, my Freedom with your Phrase,) as even Fevers themselves; and the indiscriminate Use of either by the common People, without the previous Conditions duly weigh'd, or Circumstances consider'd, either favouring or discouraging thereof, has been attended with so many untoward Accidents, or mischievous Consequences, that with me it has been sometime questionable, whether they have not done more Harm than Good; or if it had not been better, they had never been reviv'd among us.

The *strictum & laxum* of the *Solids*, the different Degrees of *Cohesion* in the *Fluids*, the Force of the Heart, and the Dispense of the nervous Fluid, the Condition the Bowels are in at the same time, whether prone on the one hand, to *inflammatory* Disorders, or on the other, to *Schirrosities* or phlegmatick Congestions; these,

these, I say, are Matters of that Nicety, that no *Fool* I am sure, nor I fear every *Physician*, duly considers, in giving this Advice: nor is it easy, if possible, in some Cases to determine what Degree of *Heat* or *Cold*, what Weight of Water, and of how long Continuance, or Repetition of the same, are requir'd to restore the Lost *Æquilibrium*, that the one act not too powerfully for the other. For as a just Degree of Warmth will suitably relax, or of Cold harden, and give a due Tensity to the Fibre, as well as to the Tone of the Blood; so will another in Excess, on either side the Question, soften beyond the Power of Restitution, or harden to a Rigidity, whence they may be render'd equally useless.

'Tis for want of this Regard, that one under a particular State of Relaxation, with firm or sound Viscera, plunges into cold Water, whence the weaken'd Fibre recovering its Spring or tonick Principle, the Fabrick is again set on a good Foot. A second, encourag'd by this Example, and fancying his Case alike, goes in also, and repeating the Experiment, is so far from receiving Advantage, that he daily grows worse, or goes in perhaps with a small *Tremor*, and comes out with a *Paralysis*: and now the Tables are turn'd, he

he posts away to the hot *Baths* for Relief, or suffers himself to be carbonado'd at the *Bagnio's* at home, where to my Knowledge, if one has been benefited, three or four have also been ruin'd, for want of due Circumspection. Here too, I mean our *Baths* at *Bath*, we have our Hits of Fortune. The *cold* and *phlegmatick*, the *cachectick*, the surfeited Debauchee with Wine and *Venus*, come down with shatter'd Tenements, and often find Materials well suited, to shoar up, at least for some longer Time; whilst the *hot* and *hectical*, under the same Expectation, are disappointed, and soon demolish'd. One goes with stiffen'd Ligaments or contracted Joints, upon his Crutches, after some broken Limb or Wrench of the same: He *baths*, *pumps*, and perhaps *drinks* too, with that wonderful Relief, that leaving his Supports behind him, he returns without them, remarkably recover'd. A second goes without, although perhaps lamely, and undergoes the like Discipline; but for want of a right Knowledge of his Case, as whether of a *hot* or *cold* Temperament, the Disease disposing to *Oedema*, *Schirrus*, or to *Phlegmon*; so it happens, that the dormant Ferment being rouzed by the additional Motion, and Heat of the sulphureous

reous Water, instead of the former good Success, an *Abscess* or *Aposteme* ensues, the Bones are found carious or rotten, he buys or borrows Crutches to come back, where the Discharge from a *fistulous* or *sinuous Ulcer*, soon exhausting the Remainder of his Strength, he drops under a Consumption.

Misfortunes of another Kind I have known ensue the dipping a Limb or Member in cold Water, strained, bruis'd or otherwise pained, without regard to the State of the Blood, Age, Temperament, or other Circumstances; where if one succeeding, at least receiving no Detriment, whose Fibres have been strong, and Heat vigorous; another in Years, of a cold Temperament, whose muscular Fibres, as well as those of the Vessels, have not been able under the Pressure and intense Coldness, to protrude the now stagnant Fluids, a Stupor has come on, and a Mortification quickly after carry'd off the Patient.

The last I shall take Notice of, is the *Cholera Morbus*, a Distemper the most acute of all the rest, by which I have seen many a strong Man, in good Health to Appearance one Day, and dead the next. And here you tell your Reader that a good large Dose of *cold Water* would

would do better than *Vomits* or *Purges*: I believe much alike, *i. e.* hazard the Life of the Patient; but who, good Sir, that was not beside himself, would offer either at *Purging* or *Vomiting*, in a Disease consisting of both, and where the utmost of our Endeavours are often ineffectual, to put a Stop to either? The least Addition of a *Stimulus* at this time, would be so far from *quelling*, as to enrage the Malady.

Dr. Sydenham indeed prudently advises *washing* the whole *Ductus Alimentalis*, not with *cold Water*, but *chicken Water* warmed, with a Design of assisting Nature, by diluting, softening, and attenuating the *Bile*, to make the Discharge more easy, or less fatiguing, sheathing the Passages from the outrageous Salts, and blunting their Effervescency: Which being thus wash'd off and discharg'd, to bridle the Orgasm of the Spirits, and check the further Evacuation, *Restringents*, or rather *Edulcorants* and *Adsorbents*, mix'd with *Opiates*, finish the Cure, at least palliate, till such time as the morbid Reliques may be more safely carry'd out of the Blood, by suitable Evacuations.

But

But you say, if the Water puts the Patient into a Sweat, (whether *cold* or *hot*, is not set down) it will be a Step to the Cure. You know, Sir, we have a Saying, *If* somewhat falls out, we are to have abundance of Larks; but what *if* that should not happen? why then we are to go without them.

I might observe to you, that among the common People, labouring under this Sickness, Physicians have little room to serve them; for being seized perhaps over Night, and taking such their Evacuations to be *critical*, Nature now endeavouring to throw off somewhat that has disagreed, they think she may do the Work thus left to her self, and they are to be the better for it afterwards; but perceiving the same too many for them, and themselves, as they express it, quite run down, in the Morning they call for Help, where we frequently find them *cramp'd in their Limbs, stiff and convuls'd, cold Sweats, with a Pulse scarcely, if at all perceptible, the Voice inward and hoarse, being spent with their Complaints, and ready to give up the Ghost*, as the By-Standers word it. Now surely, Sir, a Draught of *cold Water*, at least at this time, would be *cold Comfort*: Nay I question whether your *Elixir Vitæ* it self, a
Draught

Draught of *warm*, with one of your own *Toasts*, would be able to bring back the departing Spirit. But you say it should be given at first, which I think is the time of administering the *Warm*, and which, at some times, I have directed, being readiest at hand, as a Substitute for the *chicken Water*, both in Glysters and also Draughts, as a Diluent and Absorbent; after which, Sir, when the Conflict draws towards an End, and Nature much tir'd by the same, the Oil spent, and the Lamp near expiring, let us, for once, allow the poor Wretch at least a Sup of some good *hot Wine*, rather than *warm Water*, affording doubtless a fitter *Pabulum*, for what they call their *vital Spirits*.

But hold, I am surely out of the way, and find I have been encountering a Shadow: for as you tell us before, *cold Water*, for ought you know, might be a Step, and that you only fancy it would stop the Vomiting; the Conclusion ends here, that *you know nothing of the Matter, speaking only by Guess and uncertain Reasoning*; and truly it was scarce possible you could have given us a more evident Demonstration of your Ignorance than you have done, reason'd more simply, or guess'd wider of the Mark.

And

And thus, Sir, I have taken in Pieces, though perhaps not orderly, the most material Passages of your Pamphlet, not so much, I do assure you, to expose the Weakness of your Arguments, the Singularity of Stile, with which some others have made themselves very merry, but to caution the inadvertent and incompetent Judges, that they are not hereby deluded, or prevail'd on to try Experiments, whereby Life may be endanger'd; and to persuade you, if possible, to publish a *Retraction*.

To err simply, in Matters indifferent, for want of knowing better, is very excusable; but in those of Life or Death, surely of greater Moment, and obstinately to persist therein, the greatest of all.

Let me therefore conjure you once more, *Reverend Sir*, for the Peace and Quiet of your own Mind hereafter, as well as the publick Safety, candidly to advertise, that you never intended those crude Thoughts of yours, set down for your Amusement, should be reduced to Practice; and that having consider'd better of the Matter, and convinced that many People may be injur'd thereby, you forbid them at their own Peril, prosecuting the same.

P

This

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This, believe me, Sir, is a Duty incumbent on you, and without which, if you had the highest Preferment in the Church, I must deliver my own Sentiments, that you can neither be a good Man, much less a good Christian.

Pardon, Sir,

this Freedom

of your unknown

Humble Servant.

F I N I S.

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A LIST of the several Members
of the College of Physicians resi-
ding at this present Time in and
near adjoyning to the City of Lon-
don, with the Places of their A-
bode or Habitations, taken from
the last Catalogue; Printed by Or-
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*

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